The Middlebury Campus

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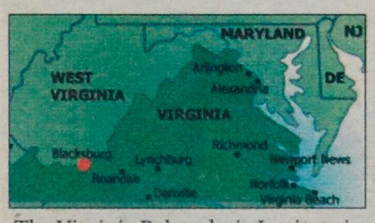
Virginia Tech shooting rampage leaves 33 dead



The Virginia Polytechnic Institute is located in Blacksburg, Va.

By Tom Brant
News Editor

Thirty-three people were confirmed dead and more than a dozen wounded in the wake of a shooting rampage that occurred Monday morning at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. By Tuesday afternoon, Virginia Tech Police identified a student, Cho Seung-Hui, 23, as the gunman responsible for multiple fatalities before killing himself, but would not rule out the possibility that Cho had an accomplice.

Cho was an undergraduate student at the university in his senior year as an English major, according to Virginia Tech.

Witnesses at the campus called the shootings mass chaos and indescribable horror. They said that some students were lined up against a wall and shot, while others jumped out of windows to escape, or crouched on floors to take cover.

"It was a total shock for 32 students and faculty members to be killed," junior Teresa Lau told *The Campus*. "A lot of people jumped out of buildings as they tried to escape. Some people broke bones, and some were shot as they jumped."

Television images on CNN and other networks showed police officers with assault rifles ordering students off the streets and walkways as a voice on a loudspeaker warned people to take cover in buildings and avoid going near doors or windows.

University officials and police in Blacksburg, Va., told national news media that the first call to police was at 7:15 a.m., and over the next several hours, 32 people were killed in two rounds of shooting, before the gunman killed himself in an engineering building full of students and professors.

University president Charles Steger issued several statements about the shooting on Virginia Tech's Web site.

"I want to repeat my horror, disbelief, and profound sorrow at the events of today," Steger said. "People from around the world have expressed their shock and sorrow and endless sadness that has transpired today. I am at a loss for words to explain or understand the carnage that visited our campus."

Steger faced an immediate barrage of questions from reporters on Monday relating to the university's initial handling of the situation. According to students, there was little sense that the campus was in immediate danger until it was too late.

"I was in my room earlier this morning and I got an e-mail saying there was a shooting incident in one of the other dorms," said first-year Perry Graham. But Graham said that the e-mail didn't give any information about whether the culprit had been caught, nor did it tell

See Vigil, page 5

Andrew Ngeow

The women's ultimate frisbee team poses after a game on April 14. The game was one of 1,400 nationwide events in the Step It Up campaign's National Day of Climate Action, organized by scholar-in-residence Bill McKibben and recent Middlebury graduates. Their goal is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

Step It Up campaign holds a green party

By Derek Schlickeisen
Senior Staff Writer

The largest global warming demonstration in American history took place on April 14, all thanks to an idea conceived by six recent graduates of the College and Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben. Step It Up 2007, a campaign of more than 1,400 coordinated demonstrations in all 50 states, called on Congress to pass comprehensive climate change legislation aimed at cutting carbon emissions by 80 percent before 2050.

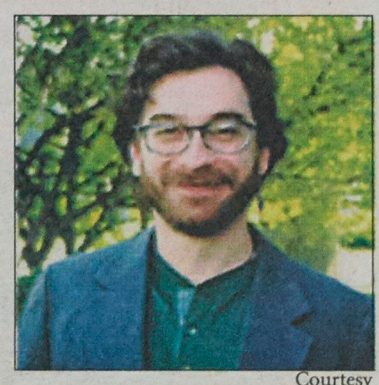
From an online launch in January with the modest goal of organizing 100 events, Step It Up 2007 rapidly grew into a national phenomenon that exceeded McKibben and his students' wildest dreams for the project.

"Step It Up was an incredible success that surpassed all of our expectations," wrote Jamie Henn '06.5, one of the project's earliest staff members, in an e-mail. "More than thirty senators and congressmen attended rallies. John Edwards

See College, page 4

Facing 'top-down' decisions, Cook dean decides to leave

By Ben Salkowe
Editor in Chief



Courtesy

Cook Commons Dean David Edleson will leave his position in June after eight years at the College. A founding staff member of the decentralized Cook Commons and a popular counselor for students inside and outside his community, Edleson said Monday that it was a growing number of decisions made by the senior administration without significant input from Commons Deans, which had "made the decision" for him in timing his leave.

"I think that with any new administration, there is a change in decision-making culture," said Edleson, referring to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz's administration, which entered office in the summer of 2004. "I feel the decision-making culture, at least in my division, has shifted from one that is collaborative to one that's very top-down. That's been noticeable over the last few years."

Edleson said that in the past he had requested an unpaid leave to pursue his outside work as a writer and academic, but because staff members are not eligible for professional leaves of absence, he had realized that he would likely leave the College in the next five years. A series of recent decisions, including the reorganization of the College's residential life staff, convinced him it was time to leave even before securing another job.

While Edleson said he supports, and was even involved in creating, the goals of the College's current strategic plan, he took issue with the way decisions were being made about how best to pursue those shared goals.

"It felt to me that we were told of what was going to happen and given an opportunity to react, but we weren't included in the big decisions," said Edleson about the residential life staff changes. "Instead of saying, 'Here's a problem, what are we all going to do about it?' it was like, 'Here are some decisions. Do you have problems with it?' And that felt disrespectful to me."

The residential life staff reorganization to take effect next year calls for halving the number of Commons Residential Advisors (CRAs)

See Dean, page 5

New homophobic graffiti found after forum

By Leslie Lim
Assistant News Editor

Two days after a town meeting in McCullough Social Space to discuss hate speech on campus, another instance of homophic graffiti was found written in permanent red marker on the white board of a student's door in Starr Hall. The incident underscored recent concerns that an earlier case of homophobic graffiti in Ross Commons was indicative of a larger problem at the College.

On April 11, roughly 130 students, faculty and staff gathered in McCullough Social Space for a town hall meeting to follow up on an earlier meeting that was held in Ross Dining Hall to discuss homophobia. Despite the College's attempts to engage a widespread audience, faculty and staff greatly outnumbered only a couple dozen students present at the meeting.

Going into the meeting, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz expressed his desire to generate regular discussion beyond the gathering.

"My hope is that our conversation will deal with the expression of homophobia at Middlebury," Liebowitz wrote in an e-mail April 7 regarding the meeting, "and also enable us to address the broader question of why members of a community like ours would resort to such expressions of disrespect and hate."

Illuminating an ugly side of the College's identity, Dean of the College Tim Spears introduced a slideshow of homophobic statements, which played on a screen in McCullough throughout the meeting. Spears explained that the homophobic images and graffiti in the slideshow were collected from all over the campus by leaders of the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA).

"What's prompting this lan-

See meeting, page 5

Chris Heinrich

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Karen Guttentag addresses listeners at a College-wide meeting to discuss incidents of homophobia on campus.

this week

sounds of takacs
String quartet makes its 19th visit to Middlebury for a night of classical music, page 19

Wissler's works
Local artist, age 94, displays 50 years of art in preview exhibit, page 6

environmental ethics
Expert ecologist and author Barry Lopez on humans and the environment, page 11

middbriefs

by Chelsea Utterback, Staff Writer

Cox '07 recognized for community service work

Jessica Cox '07 was awarded this year's Vermont Campus Compact (VCC) TD Banknorth Commitment to Service and Engagement Award on March 29. The award is given for exceptional participation in community service.

Cox contributed to the College and the Middlebury community by organizing Midd-Kidd for a Day, which invites local children to campus, mentored with Community Friends and volunteering at the Addison County Parent Child Centre.

Cox said that she did not "do service work to be recognized," but instead did so for her own fulfillment and because it was one's duty and responsibility to help others. She hoped that the award will "inspire others to get involved and try to change things in whatever way they see fit."

After she graduates in May, Cox will be moving to inner-city Chicago to teach first- and second-graders as a member of the Teach For America corps.

"Inequity in education is our nation's most important issue," said Cox, "and I'm excited for the challenge and the opportunity to do all I can for my students."

Post-9/11 summit to draw international scholars

April 20 marks the commencement of the international conference "Muslims and the State in the Post-9/11 West," organized by Professor of Political Science Erik Bleich. The conference will draw scholars from throughout the West, addressing changes in Muslim life since 9/11 due to laws enacted by the United States.

According to Bleich, the discussion will lead scholars, legislators and students to become "more informed about the viewpoints of politicians and publics." In addition, Bleich said he hoped the conference would "further reflection among Middlebury College students, faculty and staff, as well as among members of the Vermont community who are concerned about these issues."

While Bleich did not wish to send any particular message to the community at large on the subject of the conference, the hope remained that people will be able to take away a new variety of viewpoints and form their own opinions in relation to the new information.

SGA recommends change in library operating hours

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a bill at its April 15 meeting to extend the library's hours of operation. The proposal, if approved by the administration, would move the New Library's closing hour from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.

Junior Full-Year Senator Kunihide Suzuki '08 proposed the extended hours because, according to him, students must currently relocate after-hours to places that are "less equipped than the main library."

Atwater Commons Senator John Reed '07.5 also introduced a bill to require intramural teams' schedules to be posted online at least 24 hours ahead of scheduled playing times. According to Reed, players should be able to access the schedule instead of relying on captains to forward schedules at the last minute. The proposition was tabled due to insufficient information on the current rules regarding scheduling.

Corrections

The April 11 article, "College sets $46,910 Middlebury pricetag," mischaracterized the opinion of SGA President Alex Stanton. Stanton believes the rapid rise of tuition to be "alarming and problematic."

The April 11 article, "Xanadu celebrates grand opening" incorrectly reported that the nightclub would start serving alcohol next fall. The club began serving alcohol last week.

The Campus regrets these errors.

Davis names 'Peace' grant recipients

By Michelle Constant
Staff Writer

The Kathryn Wasserman Davis organization awarded $10,000 grants this spring to three groups from the College for proposals they designed for 100 Projects for Peace. The grants are to be used to launch these student initiatives this summer. The College has allotted an additional $3,000 funding for each of the winning projects, and has pledged to independently sponsor two additional projects.

The contest was devised as a celebratory measure for Kathryn Wasserman Davis' 100th birthday. According to the 100 Projects for Peace Web site, Davis is an accomplished internationalist and philanthropist who decided to donate $1 million to this movement "to help young people launch some immediate initiatives...that will bring new thinking to the prospects of peace in the world."

According to Daphne Lasky '07, President of the College Liebowitz informed the participants that they had been awarded the grants in an e-mail on March 15.

"I was so afraid that it wasn't real, and so I printed the e-mail out and had a friend read it, just to be sure," said Lasky. "To hear that someone values and supports the kind of work that I want to do matters so much. It is changing my idea of what is possible."

Lasky's project, "Building a Peaceful Future: A Workshop for the Old City of Jerusalem," will address the division of the Israelites and the Palestinians within the city of Jerusalem. Its goal is working towards freedom of access to all religious sites in order to make Jerusalem a shared capital region. According to Lasky, this will make the walls surrounding the city serve as international borders and the gates will serve as "check-points."

After returning from Jerusalem this fall, Lasky will hold afternoon-long workshops at colleges, where students can participate and work together to address the division within the city and design new borders, while addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She will compare students' idealism to physical realities that can be put in place.

Lasky's project was developed from a sketchbook drawing she had made two years ago in an Introduction to Architecture class.

"I am excited to bring the concept into reality as a design piece," said Lasky. "It's a great opportunity to pursue something I was already working on."

Lasky said that her project is important to her on a personal level. Her family has moved between Israel and the United States for the past few generations.

"Having been educated in a liberal arts education," said Lasky, "I find it important that a country that matters to me is a just place to live. I want to be the one to make that happen."

According to the proposal for "Storytelling in Uganda," submitted by sophomores, Aylie Baker, Leah Bevis, Vijay Chowdhari and Chris O'Connell, radios are the most accessible and utilized news source in Uganda, creating a sense of community within the country. The group plans to facilitate interviews and develop questions to reveal the personal narratives of children in Uganda who have dealt with conflict and prejudice.

Mike Bayersdorfer

Sophomores Vijay Chowdhari, Leah Bevis, Chris O'Connell and Aylie Baker (left to right), won a $10,000 grant for their 100 Projects for Peace proposal "Storytelling in Uganda."

The sophomores propose to give children five to ten minute segments to capture the essence of the narratives. This will empower individuals, create national awareness and aid ongoing international peace talks. The group plans to create an audio archive that will serve as an oral history and professionally edit at least 75 stories to air in the United States and Uganda, including 50 by September 15.

Hamza Arshed Usmani '10 and Shujaat Ali Khan '10 developed their project, "Enlightening Pakistan," in collaboration with Seeds of Peace, an international organization that was created by an alumnus from the College.

Usmani and Khan's plans include a middle- and high-school textbook revision by college students and professors to eliminate both historical and religious biases that help to propagate negative stereotypes, creating better educational tools. They will also use the funding to create a youth magazine that will include content from students about empowering youth and address their views on local and international politics, westernization and society in general. They plan to hold conferences that will serve as inter-religious dialogues, and give presentations and tolerance workshops to Pakistani students of lower socioeconomic backgrounds dealing with international issues.

"I knew that I wanted to do something with Pakistan because I'm from Pakistan," said Usmani. He stressed the multiple components involved in his initiative, in order to improve the education and knowledge of Pakistani youth, as well as to address the dispute between Pakistan and India.

"It's about time that the roots of intolerance are addressed so that people can better understand problems of terrorism and a solution can be implemented on a larger scale," said Usmani.

After studying at the College, Usmani said, "I was made to think about these things and I wanted to do something myself to remove the source of religious intolerance embedded from the beginning."

The two projects to be sponsored by the College include Caitrin Abshere's '07 "No-Collateral Damage: Micro-credit, Environmental Degradation and the Threat to Peace," and "Louisiana Art and Peace Project (LAPP)" submitted by Jennifer Leigh Williams '08, Conetrise Holt '10 and Justin Spurley '10.

Abshere's project explores whether micro-credit loans to impoverished agricultural communities in Thailand have negative impacts on peaceful communities and the environment. Abshere's plans for this summer include living in a Thai village, conducting interviews with creditors from a Thai nongovernmental organization and testing environmental quality indicators in collaboration with a United States-based environmental consulting firm.

Abshere plans to help the Thai micro-finance companies to adopt credit strategies that will preserve the integrity of natural resources.

"I hope my work will sensitize micro-credit lenders to the implications of the activities they are financing," wrote Abshere in an e-mail.

Abshere's project proposal came out of an Environmental Economics class.

"I was excited by the chance to do something good on my own terms, using my own passions and abilities," wrote Abshere.

Spurley said that his group's project seeks to provide an atmosphere where New Orleans youth can think critically about themselves and understand their communities through mentoring and group discussion. According to Spurley, youth will be empowered to communicate their own desires for the future of the city of New Orleans, and taught that their ideas are important.

Spurley became involved in the project after reading the proposal designed by Williams and Holt. According to Spurley the proposal made him consider the pain, struggle and hardships the people of New Orleans faced during and after the flood. Spurley was excited to get involved in the project to help others in the same way he would hope others would help his family in crisis.

"This is important to me because of the tremendous impact and positive influence that it will have on New Orleans youth," wrote Spurley in an e-mail.

Sexual assault reported in Coffrin Hall

By Lisie Mehlman
Managing Editor

According to an April 12 Crime Alert that the College's Department of Public Safety released to the student body via e-mail, "On Saturday, April 7, 2007, at approximately 4:30 a.m., an intruder entered the room of a male student in Coffrin Hall. The resident was asleep when he woke to realize that a person was standing over him. The unknown female climbed on top of him and kissed and touched him. He was able to jump out of bed and move away from the female. He yelled at her, and she left the room."

The Crime Alert included a description of the alleged intruder – a white, college-aged female of a muscular build, with shoulder length hair. The e-mail indicated that "she was wearing a white ribbon in her hair with a bow at the top of her head" and that she was wearing "a blue and white striped rugby-type polo shirt."

So as to prevent future incidents, the Department of Public Safety urged students to "remember to lock your door and check to see that the door is shut properly when you are in your room, especially at night." As a result of this incident, Public Safety officers will now "conduct more frequent patrols" in dormitories during night hours, the e-mail explained.

Reports of the assault – which are legally required to be made public by the "Timely Notice" clause of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998 – come on the wake of a similarly released Department of Public Safety Crime Alert from Feb. 19, in which Public Safety disclosed information about the alleged sexual assault of a female student on Feb. 16 after a party at Tavern's Brackett house.

Both of these incidents follow the Addison County State's Attorney's Jan. 29 charging of a former Middlebury student with one count of felony sexual assault for allegedly assaulting one female student at a Delta House party last April, and attempting to assault another.

It remains unclear whether or not the victim of Saturday's incident has successfully identified the intruder since the time of the alleged assault, and whether or not he intends to press charges against the perpetrator, as Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah is out of town and was unreachable for comment and both Assistant Director of Public Safety Larry Rooney and Dean of Atwater Commons Scott Barnicle were unavailable to respond to inquiries regarding the matter.

Faculty eliminates triple majors

By Tom Brant
News Editor

Students will no longer be able to declare triple majors, and will have to follow stricter guidelines when they declare or add new majors or minors, according to a bill passed by the faculty at their monthly meeting on April 10. The new measures will take effect next year.

The first section of the bill, introduced at March's faculty meeting by the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC), will eliminate triple majors and limit double majors to include no more than one interdisciplinary major.

The second section will move the deadline for declaring a major from the end of the fourth semester to the end of the third. Previously, students were allowed to switch majors at will.

During discussion of the proposal last month, several professors in departments that often attract students looking for a second major opposed the requirement. Associate Professor of Psychology Michelle McCauley reiterated this discontent at the April 10 meeting, claiming that smaller academic departments would be hurt by the proposal.

"From what I can tell, all the small departments that I've talked to are unhappy about this," she said.

EAC member Pete Schumer, the Baldwin professor of Mathematics & Natural Philosophy, explained the committee's rationale for introducing the fourth semester rule as an attempt to increase communication between students and their advisors before students go abroad to study.

"For many departments, once [students] go abroad we really don't see them again until their senior year," Schumer said at the March meeting. "The end of their sophomore year is really the last chance we have to talk to them in person. A lot of declaring a major is the one-on-one discussion with your advisor and we're trying to put into place as much thoughtfulness on the students and from the departments on planning ahead as much as possible."

In addition to McCauley, other faculty members present at the April 10 meeting also expressed their qualms over the proposal, including Dean of Curriculum Bob Cluss, who said that the changes to the rules for declaring majors could become too confusing for students.

"My concern is that when we tell a student they must do something by a certain point in time, what does that mean?" Cluss asked his colleagues, referring to other poorly constructed language in the College's handbook. "Sometimes it's a real deadline, but sometimes it's not. It's hard for students to negotiate through that."

Though the proposal's first two sections were passed, a third section included in the initial version was defeated, which would have required students who want to declare a minor to do so by the end of their seventh semester. Several faculty members objected to this section, including Assistant Professor of American Studies and Film & Media Culture Jason Mittell, who said that it would limit the options of students who were planning on double majoring but have course conflicts in their final semester.

"They might have two senior seminars that meet at the same time, and we've already told them that we will not reschedule [the seminars], so what we would be telling them is that you have to drop one of the majors and now you cannot even shift down to a minor even if you have the requirements," said Mittell.

SGA, Council contenders announced

By Mia Lieb-Lappen
Assistant News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) approved three candidates for the 2007 election ballot for SGA president and Student Co-Chair of the Community Council (SCCOCC) in its weekly meeting on April 15. Max Nardini '08, the current Wonnacott Commons Senator, will run unopposed for president of the SGA. Dean Atyia '08 and Eric Hoest '08 are the only two remaining competitors for after two prospective candidates dropped out of the SCCOCC race.

Nardini was the first to present his platform in front of the SGA.

"One of my primary concerns is expanding and furthering debate on campus," he said. Having launched a panel on Iran, Nardini said he believes he can use the successful model to bring in professional speakers. Topics would range from educational themes to social issues. With experience as a founding member of Xanadu, the College's new nightclub, Nardini pledged to improve social life on campus. He also outlined proposals that were mentioned in his letter of intent, including eliminating hydrogenated oil from dining hall pizza crusts, propelling the campus' carbon-neutral movement by supporting MiddShift and raising awareness and support for victims of genocide in the Sudan.

"I want to make sure what is going on at this school is guided by student voice," he said.

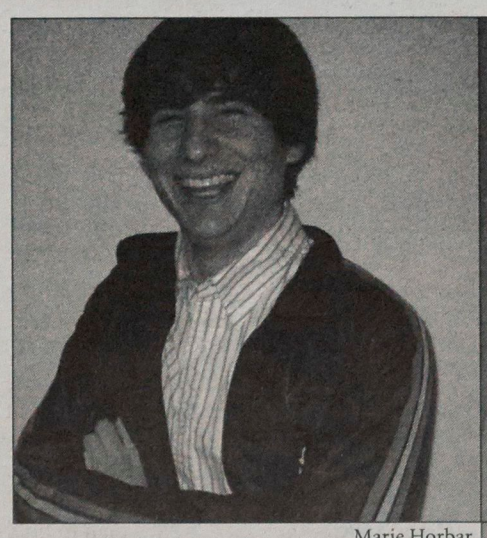
As one of two candidates approved to run for SCCOCC, Atyia has served on the Community Council for two semesters, but said he felt few of the group's proposals have achieved their goals.

"There are improvements that need to be made, that have been alluded to but haven't seen any initiative yet," said Atyia.

One idea Atyia presented was the formation of a concert committee to move from invitations to Guster and Wyclef to bigger-named bands such as The Roots.

"Considering the amount of tuition and musical interest on campus, I think we should have a concert series," said Atyia. "Imagine two spring days on Battell Beach with music, food and Tiki torches."

His letter explained that he is looking for a concert in which Wyclef will only be here if he is opening for the Rolling Stones. Atyia said he supports bringing back the campus charge cards that could not only open doors but could also be used to buy food at The Grille. He also called for candlelit dinners, liquor to be served at Xanadu, an extension of the library's hours of operation, and an online blog on which students can post ideas. According to Atyia, the College should be competitive in all aspects with the high-



Marie Horbar

Max Nardini '08, Eric Hoest '07.5 and Dean Atyia '08.5 (pictured clockwise from top left) were approved Sunday by the SGA as candidates for the 2007 election.

caliber colleges with which it is academically compared to today.

"It is time to institute the kind of changes that such an academic institution needs in order to remain competitive in the field of higher education," he said.

Hoest, the second candidate for SCCOCC, said he intends to accurately represent a diverse student body.

"If elected, I will see that the Council takes all views concerning these issues into consideration and that [it] comes up with decisions that benefit everyone," he wrote in his letter of intent.

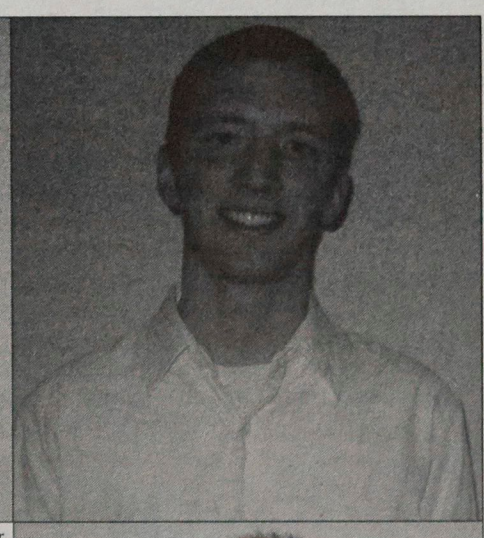
When speaking to the SGA, Hoest emphasized the importance of consensus in decision-making and expressed his desire to be part of a Council that, he said, "has representation of all the major people that are affected by the decisions."

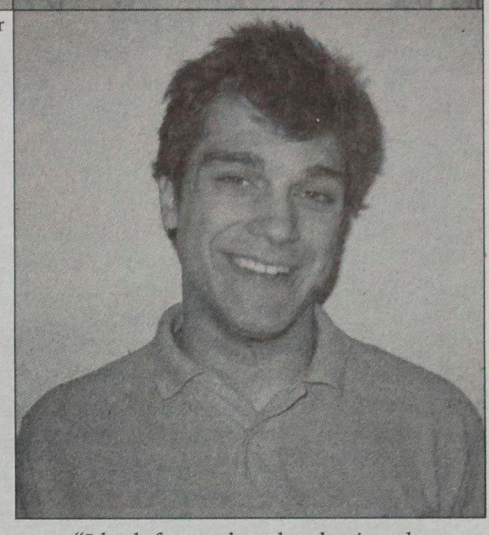
Rather than entering the scene with a large agenda, which he said was not his job, Hoest promised to use his interpersonal skills and to encourage people to publicly share their opinions. As a liaison, Hoest said he plans to increase student awareness but by more effective means than a campus-wide e-mail that everyone will simply delete.

"There are a few key issues that we will likely tackle on the Council: social houses, smoking policy, alcohol, environmentalism, and diversity," he wrote in his letter of intent.

Hoest said he was eager to work closer with President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz to accurately and effectively represent the voices of the student body.

"I will throw everything into it and really make sure that I understand where people are coming from and that they feel open to share," said Hoest.





"I look forward to the elections because the three candidates that are running all seem very qualified," said Nick Monier '08, director of membership for the SGA. "Expect to see campaigning start up on campus as election time grows near."

The new SCCOCC will replace Annie Williams '07 on the Community Council and work together with the Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson, the other Co-Chair. The Council is unique in that it is composed of administration, faculty, staff and students. It not only acts as an advisory board for the President of the College and administration, but also makes decisions regarding non-academic issues that affect the entire community. At Sunday's meeting, the SGA expressed desire for more student interest and awareness in both organizations as they are in place to facilitate student participation in communal political affairs.

Alex Stanton '07, the current SGA president, will be graduating this spring. The SGA president spearheads the Presidential Cabinet in decision-making and may recommend postponement of legislation but may not impede it from reaching the Student Senate. The president also has the authority to appoint committee heads.

overseas briefing

Opening Day in the middle of the night

by Scott Greene

How did I end up in a Chinese Internet café at 4 a.m. on a Monday night in April?

I haven't missed Opening Day of the Major League Baseball season in a long time. For most avid baseball fans, that isn't saying much. They can easily watch the handful of opening day games across the United States by heading to the ballpark or turning on the TV. Living in Asia for over 10 years, though, tuning into a game on Opening Day has never been easy. The twelve hour time difference means that an afternoon game starts in the wee hours of the morning, or an evening game might start at 7 a.m. over in East Asia.

This can make life hard for a fan but I've always found a way to keep up with the action. I would pull all-nighters streaming baseball games online or even miss class in the mornings listening to a radio broadcast in a school library. Sleep or no sleep, class or no class, I never missed an Opening Day, or many other games for that matter. Hence, returning to Asia for my semester abroad, I knew what I would have to do to watch my beloved Atlanta Braves inaugurate the season with their first of 162 games.

However, I didn't know that from Monday through Friday at the Zhejiang University of Technology (ZUT) in Hangzhou, the Internet shuts off at midnight. With the proliferation of the Internet to all corners of China has come the proliferation of online games such as World of Warcraft and Counterstrike, and turning the Internet off keeps the college kids from playing all night. It may keep them from gaming within the campus walls, but anything goes at the numerous Internet cafes (*wang ba*) shrewdly scattered beyond the gates.

Just as the lack of on-campus Internet cannot impede on one's right to a night exploring the world (of warcraft), nor could Big Brother impede on my right to enjoy opening day of the 2007 Major League Baseball season. So there I sat, across the street from the back gate of ZUT, down a thin alley normally dotted with food hawkers, inside the shadiest of Internet cafes as the Braves opened their new campaign in Philadelphia, Pa. on the other side of the world.

At two in the morning, the Internet café had very few vacant spots amongst the more than one hundred computers contained within the run-down walls. Though China has reportedly started to crackdown on its under-18 Internet gamers, actually docking them points in their virtual worlds if they exceed three hours of play, there is nothing to stop the masses at this café from an all-night session battling and casting spells with the trolls and warlocks. Some had clearly not left their seats in hours, maybe even over a day. Quite a streak.

Ultimately, I kept up my own streak of not missing Opening Day, as the Braves won in extra innings and I stayed awake in my chair for every pitch. I trudged back to ZUT just after 4 a.m. on Tuesday morning, trying not to think about my first class of the day, set to start just four hours later. Those I left behind in the Internet café? They were probably counting down the last two hours until the Internet at ZUT would come back on and they could return to their dorms and continue their "education."

college shorts

by H.Kay Merriman, Staff Writer

Rutgers' profile surges after Imus scandal

After radio show host Don Imus's reference to the predominantly black Rutgers women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos," the team's coach and players have been commended for their cordial response to the insult. As a result, sale of Rutgers' merchandise is also up 30 percent.

Media coverage of Rutgers' response, in addition to that of the recent success of their football and basketball teams, has given the university unprecedented national attention.

"You can't pay for publicity like this," said Shalonda Tanner, a Rutgers alumna and recruiter on CNN. "The class and dignity of these women brings more positive publicity to us."

Although the team did not take action against Imus, CBS fired him and MSNBC dropped their simulcast of his show.

—*CNN.com*

Accused Duke lacrosse players exonerated

On April 11, North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper announced that all charges of sexual offense and kidnapping against Duke lacrosse players Reade Seligmann, David Evans and Collin Finnerty were dropped. The players had been charged with raping a hired dancer at a March 2006 party. The case was fraught with racism implications and commentary on racial and social stereotypes.

The formerly accused are now calling for a reform of the justice system. Seligmann, Evans and Finnerty have filed ethics complaints against Michael Nifong, the Durham County district attorney who had been working on the case.

"There were many points in this case where caution would have served justice better than bravado, and in the rush to condemn a community and a state, [Nifong] lost the ability to see clearly," said Cooper on CNN, who took over the case for Nifong after his resignation in January.

The players have complained that Nifong misrepresented the credibility of the students and the evidence their lawyers presented, and that he withheld DNA evidence from the players' lawyers.

The players' lawyers have announced their intent to sue Nifong, but not to sue the woman who accused them of the assault.

—*CNN.com*

Dred Scott reenactment tackles judicial ethics

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer assisted Harvard Law School students in reenacting the 1857 U.S. Supreme Court ruling of the Dred Scott decision last week. The case, originally presided over by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, heightened antebellum racial tensions when it declared that no black, whether a slave or a free man, could ever become a U.S. citizen.

"This is an enduring lesson for judges, including, of course, justices of our Supreme Court, to be humble, because Chief Justice Taney was anything but humble," said former Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr in a CNN report.

According to CNN, Taney's decision showed complete disregard for the Declaration of Independence's statement that "all men are created equal." The dramatization was intended to encourage the future lawyers to question the legal and ethical responsibilities of the court.

"For me it immediately raises the question as a judge," according to Breyer on CNN. "How do you talk to other judges and persuade them about matters where you really think they're going to do something quite wrong?"

—*CNN.com*

College sparks climate change efforts

Continued from page 1

attended one of our rallies and pledged 80 percent cuts by 2050. This is becoming a national priority."

While the campaign enjoyed widespread support around the nation, organizers were pleased that the idea for the movement originated at the College.

"Step It Up took the incredible energy around climate change on the Middlebury campus and made it something national," wrote McKibben in an e-mail. "We were able to find people who cared passionately around the country and link them together in amazing ways that really demonstrated to Congress that this is not a second-tier issue for Americans. It's the beginning of a movement."

While that movement may end, as McKibben and others hope, in congressional action to curb global warming, it certainly began in part at Middlebury.

"For anyone who thinks it is difficult to make change from the bubble of Vermont, Step It Up is a testament to the fact that big changes can ripple out from small places," said Jon Warnow '06.5, another one of the project's original staffers.

Fellow project member May Boeve '06.5 agreed that Middlebury has a special place in the movement towards action on climate change, adding that the experience for her illustrates the opportunities available to students at the College.

"For any Middlebury student who has ever considered going out on a limb after graduating," Boeve said, "Step It Up showed me that not only is that possible, it's life changing."

With sponsorship from major environmental groups like the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), Step It Up 2007 organized rallies at some of the nation's most environmentally symbolic landmarks. Particularly poignant demonstrations took place on top of the once-broken levees in New Orleans, as well as on top of the melting glaciers at Mt. Rainier and underwater near endangered Key West coral reefs.

Angela Evancie

Activists and Middlebury students took their campaign to Washington, D.C. on April 14.

"Overall, we have been stunned by the number of successful actions and the reports we have gotten from participants," wrote Henn. "It was a powerful day for many people."

The New Orleans demonstration proved to be among the most powerful, with over 500 city residents and activists turning out in red T-shirts that read, "Save New Orleans, Stop Global Warming." Together with many environmental scholars, the event's organizers stressed that they saw a strong connection between climate change and Hurricane Katrina, which ravaged the city in 2005.

"Global warming is going to affect us and our children most," Tulane University student organizer Abbie Kamin reported on the Step It Up Web site. "Global warming is real, we have experienced it firsthand, and we can't afford to wait any longer to address it."

More than one thousand marchers also converged on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to form what they called a "human postcard" delivering a simple message to Congress: "80% By 2050!"

Though McKibben and his Middlebury graduates purposefully chose to organize local events around the country rather than a "march on Washington" reminiscent of the Civil Rights movement, their efforts have sparked comparisons to both the urgency and the moral imperative of that era.

McKibben said "that to stop global warming, we need a cause with all the passion and moral urgency of the 1960s civil rights movement," read a story on Friday in *The Philadelphia Enquirer*. The *Enquirer*'s home city played host to dozens of students dressed as endangered arctic wildlife who, in the shadow of Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, witnessed a modified rendition of Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin" that lamented, "The Climate, It Is A-Changin."

Will Congress respond to Step It Up's call to action? McKibben certainly hopes so, particularly in light of the Democrats' takeover of both chambers in last November's midterm elections.

"There's a possibility, especially if control of one or both of the houses of Congress changes hands, that we'll see some legislation finally," McKibben told *The Campus* just days before the election. "It's beyond belief that the United States hasn't passed a single real law to begin to deal with this problem."

In the wake of Saturday's nationwide demonstrations, the banner that now headlines Step It Up's Web offered a pointed challenge: "Your move, Congress."

Andrew Ngeow

Spring Into... Research

Nancy Fullman '07 was one of 56 students showcasing research projects at the first annual Spring Student Symposium for Undergraduate Research, held April 13.

public safety log

April 9 - April 15, 2007

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/9/2007	9:00 p.m.	Theft	Golf Clubs	T Lot	Referred to MPD
4/10/2007	7:35 a.m.	Vandalism	Art	Coffrin	Referred to Commons Dean
4/10/2007	2:35 p.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	L Lot	No Suspects
4/13/2007	11:30 a.m.	Vandalism	Door	Starr	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/2007	12:45 a.m.	Vehicle Vandalism	Mirror	82 Adirondack View	Referred to MPD
4/14/2007	1:57 a.m.	Vandalism	Control Siemens	Ross	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/2007	1:00 a.m.	Theft	Banner	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/2007	9:50 p.m.	Theft	Wallet	Library	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/2007	9:50 p.m.	Theft	iPod	Library	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/2007	1:00 p.m.	Theft	Pants	Natatorium	Referred to Commons Dean
4/15/2007	1:00 a.m.	Theft	Backpack	Milliken	Referred to Commons Dean
4/15/2007	1:15 a.m.	Disorderly Conduct	Fight	Ross	Referred to Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving seven alcohol citations between April 9 and April 15.

Meeting fails to prevent further homophobic incidents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

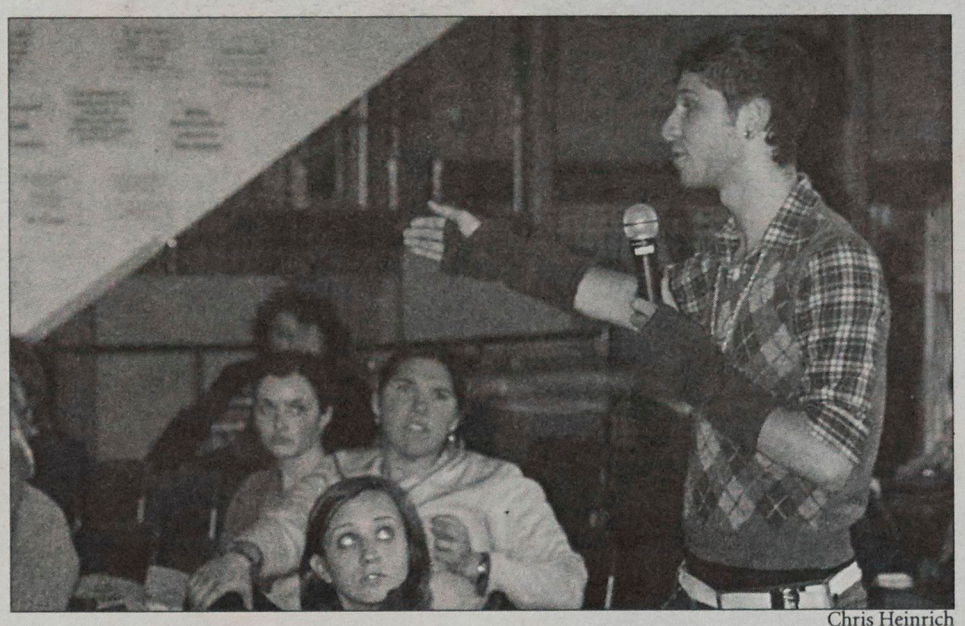
guage?" Spears said. "Where is it coming from?"

The main theme of the meeting became an examination of the College's environment and its role in fostering such emotions. Dean of Institutional Diversity Shirley Ramirez commented that the town meeting was a natural next step after the initial discussion regarding homophobia two weeks ago, and that the need to address direct and indirect homophobia and hate speech was eminent.

MOQA Co-President Ryan Tauriainen '08 highlighted the importance of the campus-wide response to the Ross graffiti and its subsequent discussions. According to Tauriainen, Liebowitz' e-mail was the first message from the Office of the President to the entire College community addressing homophobia in the College's history. Liebowitz offered a question to start off the exchange of ideas and opinions.

"Why here? Why at Middlebury?" he said. Many students offered their opinions in reaction.

"Not 'why here,'" said Max Nardini '08, "but 'why anywhere?'"



Chris Heinrich

Suggestions brought forth at the meeting include more outlets for discussion about diversity.

One theme discussed at the Ross meeting as well as during the town meeting was the problem of how to address the perpetrators of such homophobic crimes.

"How do you bring them to this space?" one female student asked.

In reply, Kelly George '08 suggested forcing a mandatory discussion for the entire college.

"From there," Max Kanter '10 said, "we need to assess what we are proud of and what we want to be known for. This could maybe break down apathetic walls."

Other themes included how the College's acceptance of different opinions and promotion of tolerance made it difficult to address conflict. Nick DeSantis '07.5 said that the College was "paralyzed by political correctness. Agreeing to disagree is a conversation stopper — not dealing with the issue."

To DeSantis' comment, Liebowitz posed related questions.

"What makes us so civil?" said Liebowitz. "Why don't we come forth against such things?"

Cook Commons Dean David Edleson also brought up the issue of the College being a small liberal arts school.

"In a city, there is more anonymity and space," he said. "We need to examine fear of other people's thoughts."

As to why such incidents occur here, Christine Etienne '07 supported Edleson's statement, saying, "We're afraid."

"A safe, respectful environment can prompt discussion and even change minds," said Assistant Professor of Writing Hector Vila.

"It is unreasonable to expect the admissions process to be able to screen for bigotry," said Associate Dean of Student Affairs Karen Guttentag, a former Admissions employee. "But it is particularly upsetting when incidents such as these occur."

Guttentag proposed offering more training to confront issues, without underestimating peer influences.

Nick Ballen '09, Co-President of MOQA, echoed the sentiments expressed by Professor of Spanish Eduardo Bejar in calling for a means of expression for diversity on the campus such as a column in *The Campus*, a literary journal and more programs promoting diversity during First-Year Orientation.

Despite the lively exchanges that occurred at the meeting, one of the attendees expressed her disappointment at the lack of students attending the event. The crowd consisted of roughly two-thirds adults and one-third students. The discussion then tuned toward student apathy, work overload and event overlaps.

Though many other issues were only briefly touched upon, Spears explained that these conversations would continue in smaller groups. Spears and Ramirez are planning to meet with Commons Heads and Deans to reexamine residential life, orientation and training programs. Additionally, MOQA and Ally Group will be sponsoring a meeting on April 19th, "Break The Silence: Are There Allies At Middlebury?" at 4:15 p.m. in Pearson's Lounge.

"The answer is to be proactive, not reactive," Ramirez said, "and to look at it multi-dimensionally as a college campus."

Dean Edleson to leave College after eight-year tenure

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on campus, in order to fund a new First-Year Counselor program that would pay full-time students to take the place of junior counselors and fill some of the duties of CRAs. Traditionally, CRAs are recent Middlebury graduates who supervise the student residential life staff and function as assistants to the Deans in enforcing Commons policies and providing counseling. Edleson said he worried about the impact of having only one CRA per Commons, and was disturbed that Commons dean's concerns had not been addressed with the proposed reorganization.

"The residential life staff is the key piece that the Deans oversee, they're key to our ability to keep a safety net working in the dorms," said Edleson. "To have that dismantled without significant input from the deans was just deeply concerning, and made the decision for me in terms of timing when I would leave."

The final plan to reorganize the residential life staff was approved by Edleson's supervisor and Dean of the College Tim Spears, who said the issue was a difficult one.

"I made that decision, and the way that process worked was I started meeting with the faculty heads and the deans in the fall and we met for three meetings," said Spears.

"It was a difficult discussion in that I think the majority agreed in spirit with the sorts of goals we were trying to reach," said Spears. "But once you get down to making changes to a system people have come to rely on, that is hard. I think it would have been difficult to make a decision that everyone at the table absolutely agreed on."

Edleson also cited the Student Government Association's (SGA) recent proposal to allow rising seniors to switch Commons in room draw without penalty, as another issue on which Commons Deans concerns had gone unrecognized, even as the senior administration announced its intention to implement the goals of the SGA proposal.

"I know David's been surprised by some of the decisions that were made this year without his knowledge or involvement," said Cook Commons Tri-Chair Jessica Cox '07. "But I think some of this stuff that has happened has gone unnoticed because it has not affected the work David does with students at all. And that's what is really, on a daily basis, important to students."

Having moved to Vermont as a writer, social worker and academic, Edleson said he was drawn to the Commons dean position for the unique combination of experience it required.

"It's one of those odd things," said Edleson. "I've done a lot of different things in my career and the job description in the [newspaper] ad had connections to all these different things that I had done that didn't always seem so connected."

At the time the College was only beginning to decentralize student services and deans offices to create the modern Commons system. The early deans who Edleson worked with were headquartered in the Forest Basement Lounge before any Commons offices had been built.

"The charge was to develop a community in each Commons, to advocate on behalf of student needs, to make sure that we're overseeing both the academic and the social discipline part of students lives," said Edleson, "and that we really try to create a sense of looking at our students as whole people, and not just looking at them as a problem when they're in trouble."

Alongside Cook Commons Faculty Head and Professor of Italian Patricia Zupan, Edleson built on an existing community that has remained strong and respected, even as Commons such as Ross and Atwater have constructed new dormitories and state of the art dining halls.

"I think David has been an outstanding Commons dean," said Spears. "Cook Commons always, even before David Edleson became dean, always had the reputation of being a student-centered Commons. Pat and David have continued that tradition and strengthened it."

With his students, Edleson quickly became the legendary "Dean Dave," a name he said he might not have chosen for himself, but one that he has come to love. With a self-described "big personality," Edleson said he has tried to model for students the need to be comfortable in one's skin, not worry what others think and never be afraid of "going off the deep end."

"David is approachable in a way that students recognize that he really understands what they are going through — he 'gets' what it is like to be a student at Middlebury," said Cook Commons Residential Advisor Elizabeth Schaumberg '06. "He is known to be outspoken and a bit risqué, but it has made him incredibly well-liked and admired among Cook students."

Edleson said he hopes to return to Middlebury to teach a J-term class in the future. Administrators and students will collaborate in the national search for the next Cook Commons dean, with plans to hire a candidate before the fall.

"We may not actually interview candidates until the summer, but students from Cook will certainly be involved in the hiring process," said Spears. "I'm very hopeful we'll have a new Commons dean in September."

Students said they hoped for a candidate who could sustain the community that Cook had become.

"I think Cook has been one of the most successful Commons in terms of community building, and a lot of that has to do with Dean Dave's work," said Cox. "We want to make sure the next person is just as invested in this as he was."

Commons deans work on 11-month contracts, and Spears said he had not heard anything to suggest other Commons deans would be leaving the College this year.

"I don't think anyone else has made a definite decision," said Edleson about the intentions of his colleagues.

He added that whatever happens, the real work for his successor would be with students, not administrators. And he singled out the other Commons deans for their support.

"We're all different, but we are committed to working together, to collaborating and finding common ground, and to supporting one another," said Edleson. "Whoever's my successor is going to have that at their side and supporting them all the way."

Vigil honors victims of university shooting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

students to stay inside.

"Maybe 15 or 20 minutes later I got another e-mail saying that the gunman was still on the loose and that everything was to be locked down and that people had to stay inside," Graham said.

At Virginia Tech, classes were cancelled through the end of the week and counselors were brought in to meet with students.

Students and administrators at colleges across the country showed solidarity yesterday for those affected by the most deadly shooting rampage in American history. As the magnitude of the disaster became clear, many campuses announced their commitment to reviewing and improving security procedures for dealing with violent threats. President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz issued a written statement saying that Middlebury was already improving procedures to communicate dangers to students before the Virginia Tech tragedy occurred, and will continue to do so.

"No campus anticipates the kind of terrible tragedy that occurred yesterday at Virginia Tech," wrote Liebowitz. "However, we are currently in the process of updating and clarifying the procedures we use to respond to a variety of campus crises and emergencies. A major goal of that process is to make sure that we are prepared to make and communicate decisions quickly in times of crisis."

The Chaplain's office also organized a prayer service on Tuesday afternoon in Mead Chapel, where community members could light a candle in memory of the victims and sign a condolence book, which will be sent to the Virginia Tech Student Government Association.

Chaplain of the College Laurel Macaulay Jordan sent a statement to students, faculty and staff late Monday night.

"Some members of our community have close ties to that part of the country or friends who are students or faculty at Virginia Tech," wrote Jordan. "But even if these connections did not exist, all of us as members of an academic community and as members of the human family share a portion of the grief that has now cast its shadow over the Virginia Tech campus."

Additional reporting by Brian Fung.

Wissler while you work

by Ceara Danaher

Prindle Mullin Wissler is a firecracker of a lady. The petite 94-year-old artist was the center of attention at Ilsley Library on the evening of April 12, and for the remainder of the month, Wissler's paintings will be on display in the library. The show is a precursor to the 21st Annual Hospice Volunteer Services Benefit Art Auction, which will be held on Friday, May 11 in nearby Vergennes' Basin Harbor Club. Over 200 items, including artwork and other goods, will be auctioned off.

Wissler, standing well below five feet tall, walked through the lobby of the library beaming on Thursday evening. She was eager to answer questions and to chat with anyone and everyone. She has lived in Middlebury since the late 1930s when her husband, Professor Ben Wissler, began working in the Middlebury Physics Department. Professor Wissler, who passed away 24 years ago, taught at the College for 40 years.

For her own part, Prindle Wissler has been an art teacher since 1934, shortly after she graduated from Skidmore College. She has taught at Lyndon State and Mary Hogan Elementary School. She continues to teach a few students now, although, she declared, "I'm still a student!"

Wissler's paintings are mainly a combination of pen-and-ink drawing, colored with watercolors. Hanging on the walls of Ilsley are works created as long ago as 1959, and as recently as this year. Wissler's paintings range from cheerful depictions of local scenes to more intricate designs which comprise her more recent work. Diagnosed with macular degeneration, a disease that impairs her eyesight and ability to see color, Wissler is now classified as legally blind.

Despite her condition, the spirited Wissler does not appear to have slowed down. Instead, she has adjusted her style to fit her needs. She works very closely to her paper and creates more abstract images. These later paintings are remarkably complex and vividly colored. Of one such painting, "Soul," she explained, "I really put my heart and soul into that one." She said, with a grin, "The others are about my life and what fun I have. It's still good fun."

Marita Schine, co-head of Brainerd Commons and Hospice Volunteer Services volunteer, also attended the event. She explained how the auction began 21 years ago with a group of dedicated individuals who collaboratively created artwork on the Middlebury Green. When the work was completed, they auctioned it off.

The Arts Auction has become more structured as time has gone on and has continued to be a great success.

"It's very community-building," Schine said. "People meet for a good purpose. They can be social, learn about art and meet local artists."

Patty Dunn, Executive Director of Hospice Volunteer Services, echoed Schine's sentiments during her introduction of Wissler. She explained how volunteers and artists gather from far and wide in an effort to bolster the community.

In describing her life as an artist, Wissler insisted upon the importance of one's own imagination. She rejects the idea of making a painting look as realistic as possible. As an example of her beliefs, she pointed to her painting, "Rich Fat Lady." The woman depicted is bulbously rendered, with hair the color of a yellow highlighter. When asked who the woman is, Wissler answered, "She's out of my head, but you know her. You've seen her."

That seems to be Wissler's artistic ideal: forging a connection between her own vibrant spirit and the world around her.

Upon reflection, she offered another tidbit about the "Rich Fat Lady." The patches of metallic gold that formed her jewelry were entirely made of chocolate wrappers. "Oh, I ate an awful lot of chocolate to make it … I probably got very fat," the tiny woman groaned.

Looking down at the mischievous smile below the white bobbed haircut, one doubts it.

April 18 marks Wissler's 95th birthday. She is an inspiration, still enthusiastic about life and delightfully opinionated. When she discovered that Middlebury students were present, she eagerly offered her thoughts. "Middlebury was sort of a cow college in 1930, but look where we are now!"

Local residents 'Step It Up' for environment

By Kelly Janis
Local News Editor

Whether as part of a bagpipe-led procession in Shelburne, a bike ride in Brandon, a ski-down in Killington or a trek from a sugaring shack to the statehouse in Montpelier, Vermonters turned out en masse on Saturday to "Step It Up" and demand that Congress pledge to cut the nation's carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Residents of the town that spawned the national movement proved no exception in their zeal. An estimated 300 people gathered on the Middlebury Town Green to enjoy live music and drumming before assembling on the footbridge near the Marble Works complex for a group photograph.

An hour later, the crowd poured into the Middlebury municipal gym for an environmental fair, kicked off with a performance by the Ripton-based folk trio Bread and Bones.

As the twang of a guitar and string bass dissipated, the fair's coordinator, Stacey Lee-Dobek, took to the stage to welcome revelers to the event, which featured presenters from a wide array of local organizations committed to curbing climate change.

"I want people to leave learning something," Lee-Dobek said. "And if you already know something, tell someone else."

Lee-Dobek introduced Professor of English John Elder, widely respected in the community for his environmental activism.

"In my brief remarks, what I want to focus on is the relationship between what we need to do and how we feel," said Elder.

He proceeded to address three distinct sentiments. The first was that of grief and loss.

"We all know that climate change is already a very serious fact, and it is going to become worse even if we do everything right," Elder said. "The carbon is already in the atmosphere."

Such a reality, however, is not cause for hopelessness — a notion underlying the second feeling Elder expressed.

"This is a moment in which I think we need to feel powerful. Powerful for change," said Elder.

As a consequence of this power, Elder said, we ought to conjure celebratory feelings, and orient ourselves toward "inclusive, pleasure-oriented environmentalism."

Elder's commentary was proceeded by that of Ron Slabaugh, president of the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN), which, according to brochures distributed at the event, aims to "revitalize our local economy to help our communities provide sustainable sources of food, water, energy, employment and other essential resources, and to promote conservation and a healthy environment." The organization, which was established in late 2005, meets monthly to discuss actions pertaining to such issues as local food, renewable energy and idling.

"We need to fashion a future in which we live with less energy," Slabaugh said. "It is time to move from despair into empowerment."

The program continued with a performance by musical guest Catch Betty. "This first song is dedicated to the largest contributor to global warming in our area," she said. "It's called 'We Must Breathe Free.' International Paper in Ticonderoga, this one's for you."

"We will not close our eyes to your deeds ... the air and sky belong to us all," Catch Betty sang as fair-goers milled about with buttons declaring "I love wind power" pinned to their shirts, and giggling youngsters ran in circles with construction paper kites and streamers in tow.

The gym's walls were festively adorned with colorful banners bearing such messages as "we are all a part of this chain" and "good planets are hard to find."

A clothesline hung along another wall, brimming with eco-friendly suggestions attached to clothespins: "repair old things ... give something away ... donate old cell phones ... ride the bus ... walk ... build bike paths ... turn down water heater ... replace lawn with native plants ... collect rain water ... no topping off gas tank."

Against this backdrop, the crowd circulated to a selection of entertaining and informative stations. Among them was Vermont Soap Works' Sudzy Putty Fun Center, where, alongside a selection of the company's organic products, an extensive offering of soap scraps were available to be molded into a flurry of forms. "Instead of throwing them away, we've turned it into a way for kids to learn about scent, touch and shape," said Soap Works employee April Marble.

> We need to fashion a future in which we live with less energy. It is time to move from despair into empowerment.
> —Ron Slabaugh

"We're in the market of helping the environment," Marble said. "We're very pleased to be here."

Also represented was Rutland's Central Vermont Public Service Corporation (CVPS). "We're beginning a new renewable energy project here in Vermont," said Senior Energy Consultant David J. Dunn. "This fair seemed like the perfect place to highlight that, and support others who are fighting global warming."

Courtesy
Step It Up rally attendees gather on the footbridge near Otter Creek for a group photograph.

The project, known as "Cow Power," entails "a voluntary service rider that promotes development and reliance on renewable energy in Vermont." Its aim is to craft a market for energy generated from the burning of methane from cow manure. CVPS customers can opt to contribute an additional monthly fee to facilitate the company's quest to "deliver renewable energy one cow at a time."

Idle-Free VT coordinator Wayne Michaud also turned out to promote his cause. The non-profit, grassroots campaign addresses unnecessary vehicle idling in the state and works toward the enactment of an idle-reduction law.

Michaud was inspired to pursue the issue after witnessing trucks idling at the Chittenden Solid Waste District's drop-off center in Hinesburg. "They would go on for ten minutes," he said. "Finally, I decided I was going to call Chittenden Solid Waste."

Subsequent to his phone call, the center posted anti-idling signs.

"They took my concern and did something about it," Michaud said.

Idling at the center, and in other locations, did not cease altogether, however. "It's a long, drawn out process to make change," Michaud said. In spite of this, he is optimistic that his "business idle-free" initiative — one which he calls a "win-win" situation for businesses and the environment alike — is capable of garnering the support of lawmakers.

This optimism seems to be contagious.

Representatives of SolarFest 2007 — a two-day summer event in Tinmouth which brings together over 90 renewable energy and sustainable future exhibitors for a music, theater and dance festival dedicated to environmental activism — said they were motivated in their cause by the work of Bill McKibben. "We're very excited that he's doing that work and raising awareness," said Hugh Coyle '83.

Middlebury's rally registered as an apt venue for similar work. "This event brings together a community of like-minded individuals," said SolarFest's Bud Yost.

Coyle and Yost are unique in their attitude and approach. "People like to talk about the problem, and we like to provide the solution," Coyle said. "It's not just theory, it's not just ideas. We can do this."

In an event report on Step It Up's website, Middlebury resident Greg Dennis concluded that the environmental fair and rally's "amazing turnout [is] proof that many, many Vermonters are committed to doing what it takes" to salvage the ailing environment.

Much of this turnout may be attributed to the event's upbeat atmosphere. "It's not merely a guilt-ridden, hand-wringing, dramatic crisis," Coyle said. "There are exciting, joyful, good things out there to celebrate. We want to show the positive spirit of this movement."

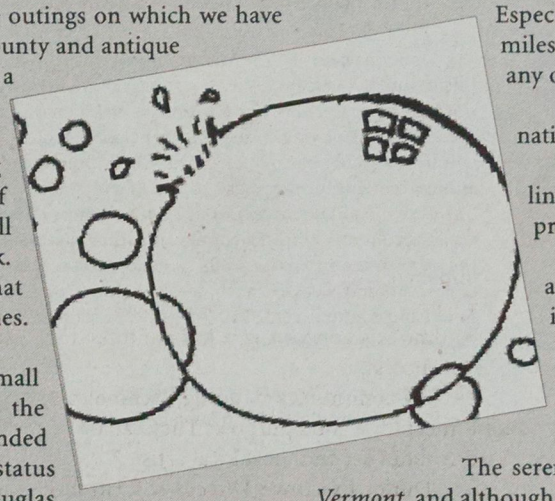
Elder echoed this sentiment in his remarks. He noted that, in some years, the shift in the sugaring season from March to February has caused tree-tapping to coincide with Mardi Gras celebrations, which he compared to Middlebury's environmental rally.

"Mardi Gras is a wonderful festival for us to think about at this time of loss, aspiration and potential," Elder said. "All over the world, in different religious traditions, there are ways to express what I think is essentially a spring ritual of partying. Winter is almost over. Put on your dancing shoes, walk around the streets with your friends wearing bright clothes and then get serious about renewal: personal transformation, community celebration, and, finally, transformation of our whole system into something not only more sustainable, but more festive and fun."

beyondthebubble

green mountain adventures with claire and lisie
this week: stephen douglas and waterfalls

Beyond the Bubbling is no walk in the park – it takes a lot of forethought and creativity, as evidenced by the four years worth of highly innovative outings on which we have reported. Highlights, of course, include our visits to several county and antique stores. But, Claire and Lisie are determined to go out with a bang, and therefore felt no shame in consulting a trusty (albeit stolen from the glorious, gothic-style Highland Park Public Library on Laurel Avenue – we have a penchant for stealing from libraries, as the Ilsley Library's season five, disc two of "Sex and the City" that we rented whilst Battell residents is still in our communal possession) "Exploring Vermont" guidebook.



Claire feels it is imperative that we let readers know that Lisie just happens to keep this guidebook in her car at all times. We are aware that we are verbose. Just go with it.

Our in-depth analysis of the guidebook led us to the small town of Brandon, Vt., which coincidentally happens to be the nearest quaint little town that we have yet to explore. Founded in 1761, Brandon has garnered international acclaim for its status as the hometown of Abe Lincoln rhetorical foe Stephen Douglas. Thus, we had to see it.

Lesson for the day: visiting the hometowns of C-list historical figures is overrated. Especially when there's a power outage. That's right, we drove thirteen miles to explore a dark, deserted hamlet devoid of our main interest on any outing: food.

Speaking of historical figures – we did venture to the not quite internationally acclaimed Kennedy Park that lies in the heart of Brandon.

A mini Niagara Falls twas not (Claire wants no credit for this line. Good work, Mehlman.). But there was a lot of mist. This proved prohibitive of our fully enjoying nature's wonder.

Eh, screw nature. All we really wanted to do was get back in bed and watch some more ABC.com. We fervently believe that launching its new flash player was the website's gift to humanity. Watching Rob Lowe in full-screen, without living in the constant fear that it might freeze at an inopportune time (read: when Rob Lowe is not semi-nude on camera), has rendered our lives infinitely more enjoyable.

The serendipitous power outage was by no means the fault of *Exploring Vermont*, and although we hadn't used it much over the past four years, it just might serve us well as our Beyond the Bubbling days wind down.

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Making sense of the senseless

The shooting rampage that occurred Monday at Virginia Polytechnic Institute shocked and horrified the nation. As college students, the images of our peers being terrorized, on a sprawling campus not so unlike our own, was both painful to witness and impossible to comprehend. Although the incident is too fresh in our collective memory to fully understand, already we see lessons and wisdom as the story unfolds.

In the face of a crisis, the writers, photographers and editors of Virginia Tech's student daily, *The Collegiate Times*, transcended their roles as college journalists to not only inform their community, but to inform the world. With many local news sources shut out, only limited comments coming from Virginia Tech officials and an entire campus on lock-down, the importance of these students' work was heightened to an extreme. The written, photographic and video posts to *The Times* website throughout the day were among the most vivid and honest portraits of the campus available. Working from computers outside of their offices, the students held nothing back, and produced a raw, emotional narrative of the tragedy. Their reporting was effective, critical and in every sense, brave.

While the editors of the student newspaper went about their work with inspiring leadership, internal communications by Virginia Tech administrators showed the University was less than fully prepared. As more and more details about the sequence of events have been released, it has become clear that administrators did not notify the entire campus or order a full lockdown until more than two hours after the first round of shooting began. Whether or not any of the deaths in the second round of shooting could have been avoided, we should realize the need for all institutions to prepare for the unimaginable. And in the face of this shooting, college administrators everywhere should recognize the need to share information with their communities quickly and clearly, even as the full extent of a crisis may remain unknown.

Finally, as American news media have told us again and again, what happened at Virginia Tech was the deadliest shooting rampage in our nation's history. On Tuesday, President Bush declared the tragedy "the worst day of violence in college history." But as an institution committed to exploring and understanding peoples and places around the world, we should realize that for all too many, the fear that struck America on Monday was a fear known day in and day out. Across the globe, in Chechnya and Sudan and Iraq and other conflict zones around the world, schoolchildren and young adults have been robbed of their lives at the height of their potential. As we seek to understand why these tragedies occur, we should recognize our role as an international institution, and avoid the temptation to consider ourselves lonely victims.

While we continue to reflect on the events of April 16, our most profound respect goes out to the staff of *The Collegiate Times*. Our hearts are with the students of Virginia Tech, their friends and their families. And our hopes are with people everywhere — that we might learn from tragedy, however senseless it may be.

contact the campus

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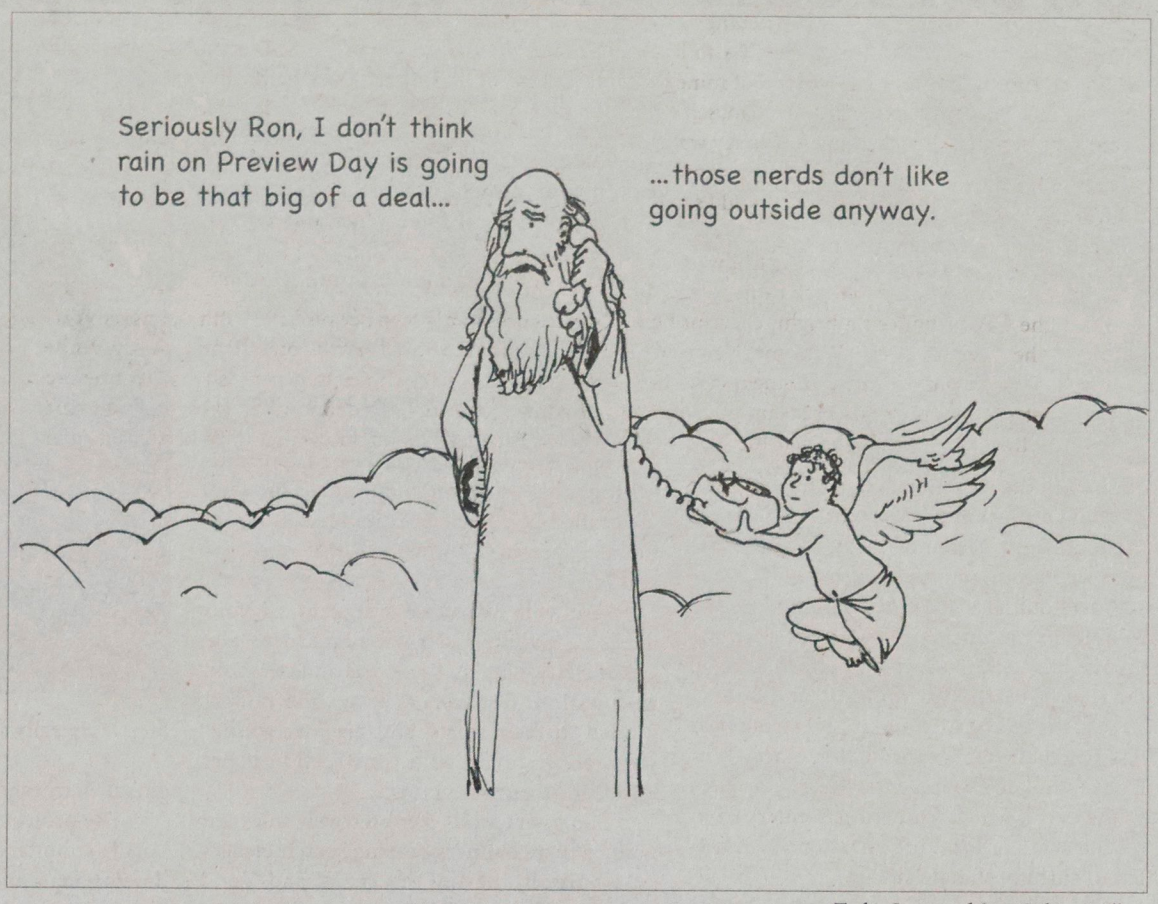

Taylor Long and Sam Dakota Miller

letters to the editor

To the Editor:

This past September a first-year in Atwater Commons was forced to move from his hall after repeatedly being called "fag," instead of his first name, by his hallmates. Despite his move, he is periodically harassed because of his orientation by these same people who have gone unpunished by the administration.

Later in the fall semester, a student in Ross Commons came home to his room in Hadley to find the word "fag" scrawled across his door. Pictures were taken by Public Safety and the incident was noted. However, it went unreported to the greater college community.

In December, a senior came back to her thesis carrel to find that an anonymous note had replaced her gay pride sticker. The note, typical of Middlebury students, had an air of respect and yet was still incredibly homophobic. The victim, an out lesbian, was asked why she had to "flaunt" her lifestyle. The author of the note, who also removed the gay pride sticker, wrote, "It would be seen as absurd for me to put up a straight pride sticker. There's something to be said about being comfortable in one's skin, but it's another to make public statements."

In March, days before Spring Break, misogynistic and homophobic graffiti directed at a dean, which used language such as "dyke" and other derogatory epithets, was found in the halls of Ross. In direct response to this incident a meeting was planned for Ross Commons by the Ross heads. However, after a vigorous poster campaign, the audience for this meeting grew campus wide.

In an effort to finally acknowledge the climate of homophobia on our campus, President Liebowitz in conjunction with the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance held a town meeting in order to include the voices of students, faculty, and staff on this serious issue. The administration had hoped that the dialogue started that day would inspire the need to take action against all aspects of discrimination on campus. It must be said that these incidents are not isolated, but rather constitute a pattern of homophobic hate speech at Middlebury that needs to be addressed.

This pattern became apparent when not long after the town meeting was held, yet another example of blatant homophobia was found on the white board of a student's door in Starr Hall in red permanent marker. The message read, "God Hates Fags."

When members of our community must come home to hateful graffiti, ignorant notes, or are forced to move out of their rooms. It affects us all. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to stand up against the discrimination that some students unrightfully endure. Most members of this campus would agree that what has happened this past year has been intolerable. Let's let our voices be heard and make the commitment to be active allies. One upcoming outlet is this Thursday, April 19th, "Break The Silence: Are There Allies At Middlebury?" at 4:15 pm in Pearson's Lounge.

Furthermore, if you or someone you know has any information whatsoever regarding who may be behind these recent acts of graffiti in Ross or Wonnacott commons, please contact (anonymously or otherwise) Lawrence Rooney, the assistant director of Public Safety, Shirley Ramirez, Dean of Institutional Diversity, or any Commons dean. If we work together we have the power to expel hate speech from Middlebury College.

Sincerely,
Christine Bachman '09.5 and Ryan Tauriainen '08
Co-Presidents, Middlebury Open-Queer Alliance
from Jersey City, N.J. and Grant Pass, Ore.

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Monday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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notes from the desk: Tamara Hilmes

Auspicious weather for prospies?

It was Sunday evening, and I was trudging across slush-covered sidewalks from Allen to the CFA to listen to a reading of 10-minute plays that a friend of mine was participating in. I was complaining bitterly to myself with every cold, wet step that drenched my feet in icy water. I thought that wearing flats in April would be appropriate, but apparently not at Middlebury, or should I say, the arctic tundra.

But hey, I'm just a first-year from the Midwest, so I have a lot to learn. As my miserable trek came to an end and I neared the CFA, I noticed a bright, cheerful blue sign through the haze of sleet. "Welcome New First-Years" it read. I stood puzzled for a moment near that funky grate that shoots up clouds of steam at random moments. New first-years. I thought that the Febs were the final additions to our freshman class, but perhaps, I surmised, we were gaining some "Apes" as well (short for April, of course). It took a moment before I finally found a reasonable explanation: Prospies.

It was then that it hit me--although it is only April of my freshman year, I am already being phased out. A new class of bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Middkids are on their way to taking our financial aid and our favorite study room in Allen Hall. I suppose this happens every year, but I cannot help feeling like the forgotten middle child now that the new babies are here.

While my initial reaction would be to focus all of my bitter hatred at the prospective students, I have to say that those I have encountered have been really cool. Sean Dennison, for instance, a 16 year-old senior from Helena, Montana who can quote Mitch Hedberg and the facebook like no other is perhaps the coolest kid that I have ever encountered. In fact, I almost feel sorry that Sean's and the other prospective students' visits have been spoiled by cold, wet, miserable weather. After all, I do not think that they are getting to see the true Middlebury, the place that I have grown to love since I first arrived in September. Walking behind windblown tour guides while the rain drizzles down over a grey campus does not really capture the essence of our school, especially when you factor in the sullen-faced students who pass by each tour group murmuring things like "Save yourself!" and "Get out while you still can!" Seriously, I have witnessed both.

I suppose that we, as current students, cannot be blamed for our less-than-thrilled attitudes, what with the stress of end-of-semester work. But when Atwater Dining Hall chooses to serve our prospies "Asian Explosion" for dinner, it makes me wonder: are we really making our best effort to show the prospective students what Middlebury is truly about? Perhaps Chicken Parmesan or even Burger Day would have better shown the true potential of Middlebury's dining services.

Looking back, I cannot compare the new prospies' experiences to my own because, the truth is, I never visited the campus before I arrived on Orientation day. While it seems like a risky choice to never visit a college before deciding to attend, I wonder now if it was actually a smart choice. After all, I do not know that I would have fallen in love with Middlebury in its current state, especially after leaving a sunny, springtime Kansas.

Even if the prospies have not received the best welcome in terms of weather or dining experience, perhaps the people they have encountered have more than compensated for an otherwise sub-par visit. Then again, thinking back to the welcome that my friends gave to the most recent prospie to stay in Allen, maybe not. From getting "flapped," (a series of quick, successive slaps between the legs — very awkward, but surprisingly amusing) immediately when she walked in the room, to her extremely confusing introduction to the six people standing in the hall when she arrived (all of whom decided to introduce themselves as either Greg or Molly), I'm sure that the poor high school senior from Maine was more than a little freaked out.

I suppose this could be considered some sort of weeding-out process. If this latest batch of prospies can manage to endure the terrible weather and our strange sense of humor, I think it displays a tremendous level of endurance and strength of character that will be a great addition to our school. Although I may still be jealous of these younger, cooler and smarter prospies, I'm willing to make room and welcome them as the "New First-Years." But they still cannot have the Allen Study Lounge. That is mine.

Tamara Hilmes is a Local News Editor from Lawrence, Kan.

heardoncampus

Imagine two spring days on Battell beach with music, food and Tiki Torches.

—Dean Atyia, a community council member campaigning to be the next Student Co-Chair of the Council

op-ed: Alaina Robertson

Tuition increases don't help students

The administration and the student body need to critically think about the new rise in the comprehensive fee. "It still only covers 68 percent of the real cost"…so what! Why does the administration need another $1.5 million a year? Do we really need bigger and better shows? Can't we be satisfied with our great campus and local bands? How necessary are all of our frivolities? We're here for an education, right?

A $2,220 increase may not seem like a lot when viewed against the $44,330 already paid for a Middlebury education, but think about it this way: The 2006 median household income was $46,326. The tuition for one year of Middlebury now exceeds the total income of over 50% of the households in the US. Though Middlebury was never cheap to begin with, increasing the tuition so dramatically is simply closing the door to that many more students who come from families where a 5.25 percent increase makes a difference.

Middlebury prides itself on its "diversity," after all, 30 percent of the class of 2010 were minorities or international students and 42 percent of students receive financial aid. But if you look at the average aid package ($26,732) that means that the average student on financial aid can still pay $17,598. No family making under $50,000 can afford to put this much money toward a college education. So a very generous estimation would be that 20 percent of the student body comes from that 50 percent of the country who makes an average living. Where does this put Middlebury? Not in a diverse situation, that's for sure. Why are we moving toward more elitism? The income gap is diverging and every time Middlebury raises its tuition it is excluding another fraction of the population that just can't work out paying an extra thousand dollars or so. We need to ask ourselves, what the value of an institution like Middlebury is when it is educating and enabling only the children of the upper class — these kids were already guaranteed some level of security and success anyway.

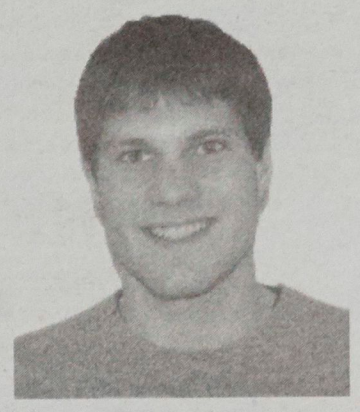
The counter argument is that Middlebury covers 100 percent of financial need. Did they ever tell you that they establish that need? The aid calculations are not very realistic. For example, the FAFSA will establish that a household making $40,000 with two children in college is expected to spend 14% of their household income on the parental contribution. Do you think that the parents can make ends meet with the $34,500 that leaves them with? (No, parents will most likely choose to send their kids to a place where they can cut costs with off-campus housing, no expensive meal plan, and more employment opportunities than a place like Middlebury.)

Diversity is not just about race or ethnicity, it is about class. Middlebury fails miserably on this one. If Middlebury tried to reduce their comprehensive fee, rather than skyrocket it, they would surely find more real diversity in the student body. The "bubble" that we joke about would become less of a bubble of isolation from the real world if Midd tried a little harder to re-create the real-world demographics of the US. There are brilliant, Midd-deserving (and Midd-capable) students in every socio-economic level, why aren't they here?

Alaina Robertson is a sophomore who hails from Bellevue, Wash.

more matter: Matty Van Meter

Dish Deviants



I came to this campus, as many of you did, to immerse and engage myself in an intellectual community which is not only diverse and stimulating, but subtle, self-aware and conscientious. In the classroom, and indeed in most situations, I have not been disappointed. When it comes to the day-to-day applications of the most basic of moral tenants, however, our self-scrutiny comes to an end and we are found lacking in the strength to live by our convictions.

No one on campus knows exactly how many cups, mugs, bowls and plates have been stolen this year. That it happens is apparent everywhere and most students will have to look no further than themselves for a perpetrator. The problem is made somewhat invisible by the constant large-scale replacement of all manner of china and glassware, and most members of the community have become extremely adept and practiced at justifying the theft to themselves. That most students and faculty would consider it wrong to take another's property without permission goes without saying, yet when that property belongs to an institution rather than an individual, and when the theft is thousands of small objects, rather than a few large ones, our moral codes simply disappear.

The closest we can come to knowing the sheer quantity of dining hall property which is stolen is to add the number of replacement china/glassware bought (as of March 1, 8736 pieces, totaling $31,524 according to Dining Services) to the number of unbroken pieces which are found in trash and recycling bins (as of March 1, 8,686 pieces totaling $20,741, according to Waste Management).

Let us pause and consider the latter figure; every day we throw 43 perfectly serviceable items into garbage cans, many of which are so disgusting that they cannot be reused after recovery. Would you want to eat your chicken parm off a plate which had been in a compactor with Friday night's vomit? Every day, the College spends $157.91 to buy china and glassware in an attempt to keep up with the rate of theft, and every day, by the above estimation, $273.75, or 87 pieces are taken, never to return. Think of the implications of that. Even using this conservative estimation of theft levels, and making calculations from information provided by Dining Services and Waste Management, in the four years since the senior class entered the College, more than 70,000 pieces of china and glassware have gone missing. That is enough for two pieces for every resident of Addison County, enough for nine pieces for every resident of the town of Middlebury, enough for thirty pieces for every College student, including the ones who are abroad. This is why the figures from Waste Management are of particular concern; much of the stolen property is simply thrown away, because we have gotten used to brand new ones appearing in the dining hall no matter what we do.

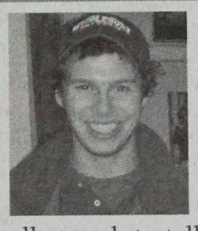
The numbers, however telling they are, obscure the actual problem, which concerns the day-to-day decisions which reveal our lives, and which lay bare our real moral fabric.

The right and wrong here is perfectly clear, uncomplicated by the subtle shading and uncertainty which mark most decisions in life and academia, and yet the numbers suggest that each and every student on this campus feels him or herself above this simplest of moral codes. For all our high-minded philosophy and passionate defense of ideals, when put to the test, we are all petty crooks.

the web poll: Is Middlebury's comprehensive fee soaring out of control?

" We all need to expect the fee to go up, but I think it has gone up quite a bit in the last few years."

— MARGARET KIM '09

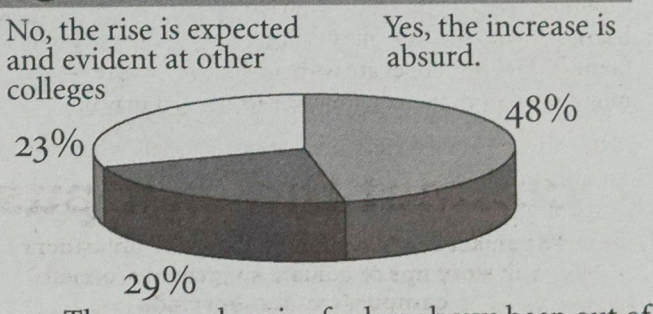


"It's really tough to tell without hearing about where the money is going."

— NICK MIDDLETON '08

"I don't really know the reason for the increase, but it seems pretty high compared to other colleges."

— THU PHUNG '10



The comprehensive fee has always been out of control.

Results taken from poll at www.middleburycampus.com

Next week's web poll: Why is there a paucity of student government candidates?

op-ed: Peter Mueller

Reasons for optimism in climate change

The human being gets a tough rap. Turn on the news and you'll see all the bad things that humans do. Humans lie, steal, cheat and hurt each other. It seems that the human is always on trial. Most recently, the human being has come under scrutiny for changing the environment.

However, changing the environment is something that humans do well. There was a day when a human emerged from the cave and made a shelter by moving the Earth with its hands. It was preferable to a cave — there was light and better circulation. Was the human the first animal to make a home? No, the bird had long had its nest, and the bees their hive.

In time, the human being surpassed the others in its ability to change the environment. Slipshod shelters became farming villages, trading towns and booming industrial metropoli. The beaver's dam made way for the Hoover. This was progress. Growth continued for the same reason the human first left the cave. Humans are creatures of comfort.

Today, Middlebury College has established itself as a leader in environmental responsibility. We have a wind turbine and a recycling facility. Students do their part by sacrificing two degrees of heat in their dorms. Yet, there is a striking dichotomy between environmental consciousness and comfort. Signs around campus tell me to unplug my computer when it is not in use, while the concrete behemoth, BiHall, serves as Addison County's second sun. We want to minimize environmental impact, but we also want to read in plush chairs beside Vermont's largest window. Sure, I'll put my computer in sleep mode, but I cannot honestly crawl behind my desk ten times a day to unplug it. I am a creature of comfort.

Does my failure to do so make me a bad person and ensure the Apocalypse? While the answer to the former is open to interpretation, I certainly doubt the latter. Although I am concerned with man's growing relationship with the environment, I am, in a way, impressed. In another era, humans paid homage to idols to bring rain and a good harvest. They tried their best to influence the environment and could not. Modern human ability to change the environment is not so much contemptible as incredible. If only Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, could see the fruits of our Green Revolution. I'm sure she would be impressed.

Today, the scientific community is confident that greenhouse gases are leading to an increase in overall Earth temperature. The implications of the rise in temperature are less certain; Ice caps melting, variable weather, and drought are just a few. If you occasionally open a newspaper you have probably heard it all. Again, humans love to report the bad news.

Yet, on April 3, *The New York Times* inadvertently reported some good news in an article entitled, "Reports From Four Fronts in the War on Warming." The article addressed the geography of global warming, highlighting the places where change could hurt the most. Moreover, the piece reported on the human response to change.

In Maasbommel, the Netherlands, construction has begun on a network of higher dykes and floating houses as part of what they call "climate-proofing." In Perth, Australia, the new Perth Seawater Desalinization Plant is producing over 38 million gallons of fresh water a day, according to The Times. Of course, without global support these technological responses are limited to places with the adequate means.

I cite these examples to shed climate change in a glass half-full light. Although we may be the first species to directly change global climate, we are also the first species equipped to handle the change. Our history proves that this is something we do well. Let's not underestimate human ingenuity in the face of the Malthusian specter. To do so would mean a reduction in comfort that Middlebury's Nike-clad, Ipod-sporting environmentalist seems unwilling to make. I'm certainly not about to move back into the cave. Rather, I am optimistically standing by as the world's most creative species approaches a new challenge.

Peter Mueller is a Junior Feb from Yarmouth, Maine

op-ed: Emily Nelson

Consider the consequences of free speech

As the Co-President of Ally Group and the daughter of lesbian parents, I am deeply disturbed by the way in which many Middlebury students twist the concept of free speech. Don't get me wrong, I am a firm believer in free speech, but the latest trend around here seems to be writing off complaints about serious incidents and injustices as 'liberals not wanting to hear anyone else's point of view.' This is a gross misrepresentation of what those of us working to further tolerance and acceptance on this campus stand for. Writing off recent events on campus as expressions of free speech not only belittles the seriousness of the Ross graffiti incident, but it also ignores the realities of life on the Middlebury campus. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to create a safe space where everyone can learn and grow as people, not to fight for the right to take that safety away. I would love to see more respectful, thought-provoking dialogues take place on this campus. But there is a difference between conversations which demonstrate diversity of opinion and and those which protect people who commit obvious offenses to our entire community. If we support homophobic remarks and actions, we create an environment that breeds bigotry and hate. I do not think that any of us want to live in such a place.

One word that proponents of the free speech argument frequently ignore is "harassment." The line between free speech and verbal harassment is a thin yet important one. A clear example of this is verbal harassment of a sexual nature; by the free speech argument, any man should be allowed to stand outside of Proctor and make crude, threatening remarks to female students as they walk by. We all know that if this occurred, Public Safety would be called immediately.

When students, faculty and staff feel unsafe and unwelcome in their homes and place of employment, it is time to think about where we draw the line. So I ask you, how far are you willing to extend free speech and protection of bigoted remarks? Should students be allowed to stand up in the middle of class and verbally assault their professors? Would you still stand by a lack of administrative action if someone followed you around shouting slurs at you? What if there were racist and ethnically hurtful remarks written on the walls of the language houses?

Homophobia is too often protected and allowed to slip by on this campus because we are afraid of coming across as "too liberal." I want to remind everyone that homosexuality is not a political issue, but rather a part of the identity of many members of our community. I am not arguing for a college in which expressing any unpopular view will get you expelled, but I do think that there has to be a limit to the kinds of hate crimes that we tolerate and allow to continue. Social pressure is all well and good, but it does not solve the problem. We do not simply pressure our peers not to cheat, we sign the honor code. You do not see much physical fighting on this campus because there is a zero tolerance policy. Why don't we get rid of administrative involvement in these offenses? Because some things are too serious to be dealt with solely on a peer-to-peer level. When students are forced to move because of harassment and administrators are personally attacked using heavily offensive language, the administration must take a stand.

In a recent ESPN.com article, Jemele Hill made a wonderful point that all of us should consider: "Speech is free, but consequences are not."

This is how the real world works. Regardless of how everyone feels about the contents of the graffiti, it was an act of vandalism. Whether Joe MiddKidd thinks that free speech allows us to say anything we want at any moment without consequences, you will get in trouble if you stand up in the middle of your final exam and yell out the answers. And when advocates of free speech without repercussions want to share their points of view, they should come to the community meetings and say what they have to say in front of the students directly effected by verbal assaults on this campus.

Emily Nelson is a senior Feb from Brookline, Mass.

op-ed: Viraj Assar

Voices of reason in the massacre at Virginia Tech

I write this week out of confusion and frustration, having woken up on Monday to early reports of serial violence on the campus of Virginia Tech in my hometown of Blacksburg, Virginia. In the same week as the eighth anniversary of the Columbine massacre, and after reports of bomb threats on the VT campus, news agencies reported by Monday afternoon that up to 33 were fatally shot in dorms and a classroom, including multiple faculty members, with around 30 others wounded. Specifics were tentative at best, but the event was quickly acknowledged as the worst mass shooting in this country's history. This, after an academic year whose first day in session was marred by the cancellation of classes due to a massive manhunt undertaken to apprehend William Morva, a convict who killed two security personnel in the Blacksburg area after escaping from police custody.

Such events were without precedent in Blacksburg, which is recognized regionally as a quiet suburban haven of sorts. I walked the streets at night without the slightest worry. I came of age on the campus of Virginia Tech, where my mother was a graduate student through most of the 1990s. I discovered the internet in its library, learned to play pool in its student center, worked my first job at the campus bookstore, received tutoring from members of its community, and attended my senior prom in one of its ballrooms. As an intern at the university in 2004, I lived within sight of West Ambler Johnston Hall, where the first lives were lost this Monday. Many of my friends from Blacksburg High School have attended VT, which receives a tremendous percentage of our alumni.

With this understanding of Virginia Tech, Monday afternoon was shattering. Just after noon, I heard the news from a friend who studies there. Immediately, I turned to the internet for more information.

A quick survey of news coverage of the situation in the hours following the press conference held by VT President Charles Steger yielded front-page stories at the websites of the world's top news outlets: Reuters, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, BBC News, the Times of London, the Hindustan Times, and Al-Jazeera. However, the sites maintained by the most directly involved local parties, including Virginia Tech, the Blacksburg Police Department, the Blacksburg Town Council, and the offices of US Congressman Richard Boucher and Gov. Timothy Kaine were blacked out and unable to provide information. Local police, K-9 units, snipers, and agents from the FBI and ATF flooded campus, which was locked-down. Mobile phone networks serving the area were also jammed, making it difficult for those on campus to communicate beyond its limits. From Washington, White House deputy press secretary Dana Perino expressed the President's horror at hearing the news. An NPR correspondent monitored the reaction from Capitol Hill, where, as lawmakers bristled with anticipation over Tuesday's hearings on Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' involvement with the US Attorney firings, Congress observed a moment of silence. This did not satisfy.

On the security front, the VT Police had failed to notify the university community after responding to the first shootings, which were reported just after 7 am. This meant that students attended classes as usual. As many as 30 were subsequently gunned down in Norris Hall. Chief Wendell Flinchum appeared unable to offer more than projected casualty numbers, including whether the shooter killed himself or was successfully targeted by police. I learned from a friend that one of the victims, an acquaintance of hers now receiving care in an ICU, had been told not to discuss his experience. Police dogs had scoured the campus, and surrounding thoroughfares were re-opened as the worst was deemed over. Hunched over my laptop in Painter, frustration about the paucity of information and government reaction set in.

I had written immediately to Senators Warner and Webb, concerned that there were too many questions and not enough visibility among political and law enforcement leadership immediately following the newsbreak. I thought immediately of 9/11, when Pres. Bush waited to comment on the day's horrors until the evening, and hoped to see a better effort in this case. I did see such an effort, but it originated from the ground--*not* from political heights or law enforcement.

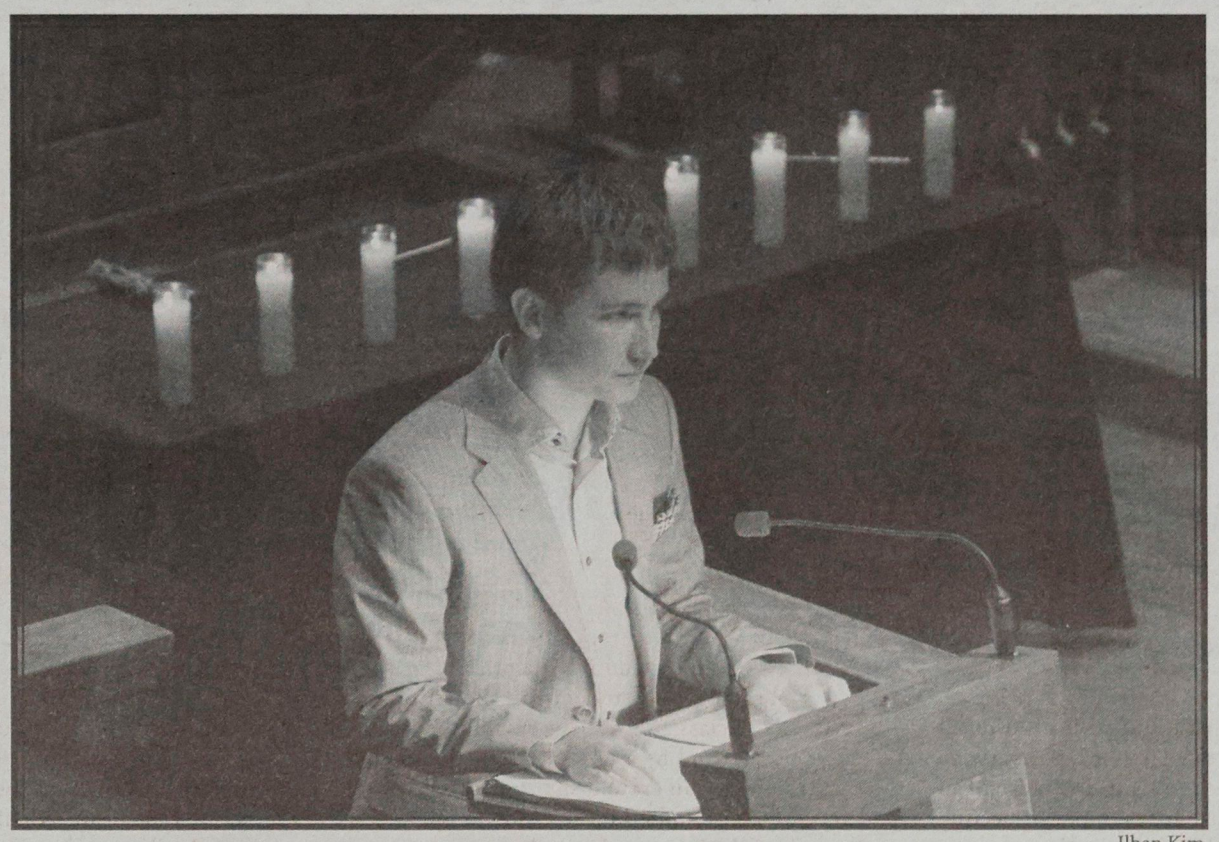
A friend called from Baltimore to let me know she had heard that VT students holed up in classrooms were at work writing news pieces to counteract the communications failures, while ROTC cadets helped to secure the campus. BBC video coverage included reports from student witnesses, volunteers, and a representative from the university's radio station, WUVT-FM. The website of the Collegiate Times, VT's student-run newspaper, had up-to-date postings and uncompromised accessibility, despite being run from an off-campus location. Student bloggers provided video and personal accounts of the insanity, as well as expressed outrage and confusion at the delay of the initial lockdown.

Neither I nor anyone can predict at this early stage what the true fallout of this event will be, but I encourage members of the College community to ask questions and express their support for the victims, and I applaud those who, without waiting for the smoke to clear or for the political implications of this horrible day to sharpen into focus, tried their damnedest to supply information to those of us outside.

Viraj Assar is a senior Political Science and English double major who now resides in Alexandria, Va.

Yom HaShoah

Middlebury Remembers the Holocaust



Ilhan Kim

Michael Nevadomski '09 leads students remembering Holocaust victims at Sunday's annual Yom HaShoah service.

What is my responsibility?
What is the universe of my obligation?
— Rabbi Ira Schiffer, Associate Chaplain

Jews, Jehovah's witnesses, Polish citizens, homosexuals, the mentally and physically disabled, Soviet prisoners and citizens, political opponents, Roma en shinti. Over 6 million killed and over six decades later, the Holocaust continues to haunt human consciousness.

One by one, students, faculty and community members each ascended the stage in Mead Chapel this past Sunday evening to light a candle commemorating those who were killed during the Holocaust in the annual Yom HaShoah service.

"It is important. It is important that we gather together to remember," said Reverend Laurel Jordan '79, chaplain of Middlebury College, to a small crowd in her opening address. First established in 1951 by the Israeli parliament, the day is formally called Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah, explained Jordan, which translates to "Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism."

Commencing with a musical prelude, "Theme from Schindler's List," performed on violin by Ben Wiechman '07, the service featured a series of readings, personal reflections and musical interludes delivered by individuals from a variety of backgrounds.

The Reverend Morris Pike, retired United Church of Christ minister, chose to commemorate the thousands of homosexuals who perished under the Nazi regime, "whose only crime," he explained, "was loving others." For A. Barton Hepburn Professor of History Paul Monod, the day was an opportunity to remember the suffering of the mentally and physically disabled, to which he related through celebrating the life of his own son, who has cerebral palsy.

In his own speech, Michael Nevadomski '09, of Polish descent, described the brutal persecution of his ancestors during the Holocaust. During the period from 1939-1945, explained Nevadomski, Poland endured innumerable sufferings including "the systematic erasal of Catholicism from the national identity of Poland, and the creation of a slave nation to serve the Reich." By the time the Soviets finally liberated Poland in 1945, the country had lost over one quarter of its population.

"And yet," stressed Nevadomski, "in these shadows of death, it is important for us to remember how, despite these horrors, there were moments when humanity was at its certain best."

In the midst of their own struggle, the Polish were particularly welcoming to Jews. Many Catholics even strongly believed "in the words of the Krakow poet Adam Mickiewicz," who said that it was the Jewish who were "'the elder brothers of Christianity,'" said Nevadomski.

In her own reflection, Alex Schloss '09.5 focused on the fact that, "We all share a universal connection in understanding the human condition." She stressed that "in remembering the Holocaust, it should not matter if I am Jewish," adding, "that is why we invite people of all faiths here tonight, and why Yom HaShoah, a day of remembrance, exists. It reminds us of the importance of the past, which not only shapes who we are but predicts what we are capable of in the future."

It was this point which Rabbi Ira Schiffer, Associate Chaplain of Middlebury College, echoed in his Benediction. "What is my responsibility? What is the universe of my obligation?" he asked. "If you can prevent the whole world from committing a sin but do not, you are punished for the sins of the world."

—Aylie Baker, Features Editor

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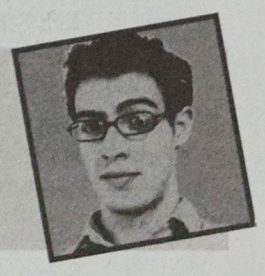


sexsage

by Sage Bierster

No sex column would be complete without an article on pornography. It is in-your-face sexuality taken to extremes. It has infiltrated every media available, and everywhere it appears it generates controversy. It is a $10 billion industry that is forever caught between our most lascivious desires and the "moral high ground" (read Eric Schlosser's *Reefer Madness* for a more in-depth look). Some people absolutely hate it, yet it seems that the majority find pornography — be it films, magazines, books or internet websites — titillating.

But what is it exactly about porn that turns us on? I mean, the attraction is obvious for, say, 40-year-old virgins who still live with their mothers. But what about the rest of us with active sex lives who actually get to touch a real live naked person, yet still seek out porn? Why does it make us all hot and bothered?

Last week the Science section of *The New York Times* ran a series of articles on sexuality, including a particularly fascinating article by Natalie Angier entitled "Birds Do It. Bees Do It. People Seek the Keys to It." The article reviewed scientific research on how and why humans experience sexual desire and excitement. Researchers found that humans are easily aroused by sexual stimuli of a physical and/or visual nature, which activates the body's sexual response mechanisms and primes us to experience desire. This goes a long way towards explaining the popularity of pornography, not just with men but with women and couples as well. Images of sex or sexually provocative nudity stimulate our bodies and turn us on, thus prompting us to become what us college kids might call "really horny." Porn therefore offers a steady flow of diverse material to get us in the mood and spurs a natural healthy craving that we all experience.

In spite of its good aspects, it is necessary to point out the darker side of the porn industry that raises qualms among even the most sexually liberated. Groups such as the Anti-Pornography League highlight the reinforcement of male-domination over women and violence against them that is represented in films and other media. They also say that the porn industry, with its capacity to churn out hundreds of movies a week and maintain millions of websites, is responsible for the exploitation of men and women and for putting them at risk. If you have seen a pornographic film chances are it was condom-free, which is dangerous not only for those individuals participating (I hate to say acting, though I doubt that most of those orgasms are real) in the film but for those watching it. It sends the message that good sex — "porno sex" — is only possible when you don't use protection, and that it's OK to get it on with that random cable guy or sexy librarian — or why not both at the same time? — without a condom.

So how do we reconcile the enjoyment and pleasure we get from porn with its more deplorable aspects? There is no one answer and in the end you have to do what feels right for you. But it is wise to remember that you shouldn't compare porn to real life sex, because it will never measure up. Real breasts don't look like that, most penises aren't that big and unsafe sex is never cool.

During April, spring into GAYpril

By Sara Black
Staff Writer

"That graffiti does not represent some isolated incident that one can respond to by scolding whoever committed the crime," Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (MOQA) co-President Nick Ballen '08 wrote in an e-mail, regarding the recent indecent slurs tattooed on the walls of Ross two weeks ago. "Rather, it demonstrates, along with the daily instances of homophobia on this campus that mostly go unnoticed, an underlying bigotry and conflict between the ever-rising presence of diversity in general and the more traditional and normative elements at Middlebury."

In light of this recent hate crime in Ross, GAYpril, a celebratory month of events and presentations sponsored by MOQA meant to increase awareness of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (GLBTQ) issues, carries extra importance this year with an aim to educate the student body and eliminate ignorant actions.

Ushered in with the distribution of pink triangle cookies and rainbow ribbons in the dining halls, GAYpril will commence tomorrow with an impressive lineup. At 4:30 p.m. in Pearsons Lounge MOQA will host an Ally Workshop entitled, "Are There Allies at Middlebury?" which will address the role allies, or straight supporters of gay rights, play on campus and how to deal with homophobia.

Other events have been designed to showcase the MOQA campaign, make their presence on campus as visible as possible and involve the entire student body. GAYpril serves its purpose as a vehicle to connect community members and provide information, but it also focuses on having fun.

"I've found it's really crucial to maintain a positive attitude," Ballen said, "and just have a good time!"

Color Week, which will run from Apr. 23-28, will encourage each students to wear a different color everyday, in an effort for students to support their peers grappling with GLBQT issues. For those who need advance notice in planning their wardrobes: Monday is red, Tuesday is orange, Wednesday is yellow, Thursday is green, Friday is blue and Saturday is purple.

"Color week is also a favorite of mine. It's great to walk into the dining halls and see everyone wearing the same color," Ballen said. "Plus, events like this and the Day of Silence provide everyone with an easy way to show their support without taking too much time out of their busy schedules at this point in the year."

Today, the National Day of Silence, is another way in which students can honor those among them who have been forced to remain silent by our society's discriminatory attitude towards homosexuals. The students who opt to participate are encouraged to wear black.

"GAYpril is just a month of celebrating queerness" MOQA webmistress Baylie Roth '09 said. "It's just about recognizing and being proud of those who are any type of queer."

This year MOQA has teamed up with the African American Alliance (AAA) to jointly host the annual Drag Ball and fashion show, which will be held this Apr. 21 in the McCullough Social Space from 8-9:30 p.m. A segment of the fashion show will be sponsored by MOQA and attendees are encouraged to dress in drag. The greatly anticipated Drag Ball will follow the fashion show.

"We hope the events we hold foster confidence in the queer community on campus," Ballen said, "and also cause people who may not have considered matters pertinent to the queer community to consider such issues."

GAYpril Events You Won't Want to Miss

National Day of Silence
Wednesday, April 18
Show your support by wearing black and vowing to spend the entire day in silence, in honor of those who have been forced to withstand societal discrimination.

"Are There Allies at Middlebury?"
Thursday, April 19, 4:30 p.m. - Pearsons Lounge,
Join MOQA and the ALLY Group for a discussion of what it means to be an ally and how allies can provide much-needed support to the GLBQT commuity.

MOQA/ AAA Drag Ball
Saturday, April 21
Dress in drag like you've always wanted to. And dance.

Color Week
April 23- April 28
Wear a different color for each day of the week

15 minutes with...

Sarah Ashby '10

Childhood Dream... To be a jockey

Greatest Fear... Any scenario that involves myself, a Middlebury copier, and a stack of one-sided papers to be photocopied

Favorite Appetizer... Tomatoes with mozzarella cheese

Last Purchase... Peppermints from MiddExpress

Favorite Holiday... Easter

Favorite Spot on Campus... View from one of the top floors of BiHall looking east

Actor or Actress that would play you in a movie... Vin Diesel

Hidden Talent... I have practiced bullfighting on horseback...but so far only with an imitation bull!

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

Prince William	Kate Middleton
You still a prince, and you still fine.	Don't worry, I'm sure your country home is still pretty...nevermind.
The 100 "Likelies"	Prospies
Anything we can do, please don't hesitate to call.	Oh. You paid for your trip to Middlebury?
Rites of Spring	Spring at Middlebury
Pure unadulterated debauchery.	"Quick! We need a loser to go opposite Rites of Spring!"

Lopez paves wild road to sustainability

By Nathan Zucker
Staff Writer

"I'm here for a purpose. I do not feel like I'm passing through. I feel a measure of social responsibility in what I do. Writing is an ethical act," said Barry Lopez, ecological expert and author of the book "Arctic Dreams."

Delivering the 2007 Scott A. Margolin '99 Lecture in Environmental Affairs, "The Wild Road to the Far North," Lopez addressed three important questions: "Who are you? Where did you come from? Why are you here?" The answers to these questions, he asserted, reveal much about our purpose on Earth, as well as offer a way to challenge ourselves to face the impending ecological problems.

Margolin was a courageous student who strived not only to understand, but also to solve, one of mankind's most pressing problems, the ecological crisis. Although Margolin died tragically following his first year at Middlebury, he will be forever remembered by the series of lectures delivered in his name. This year's lecture was cosponsored by the Middlebury College Museum of Art (MCMA), Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Environmental Studies Program and Environmental Affairs Office, and was part of the programming series "Reflections on a House of One Room," presented in conjunction with the exhibition "Robert Adams: Turning Back, A Photographic Journal of Re-exploration" on view at the MCMA through June 3.

Each year, the Environmental Studies department funds a speaker who addresses various aspects of the tense interaction between humans and their environment. Lopez has dedicated much of his work to the study of how global climate change has affected the polar regions of the Earth. Although part of his lecture was devoted to this topic, the event was mainly a general discussion of how humans can improve their relationship with their planet. Lopez, who spoke for an hour in Mead Chapel on Thursday, was received warmly by a large audience, which was filled with students interested in environmental studies.

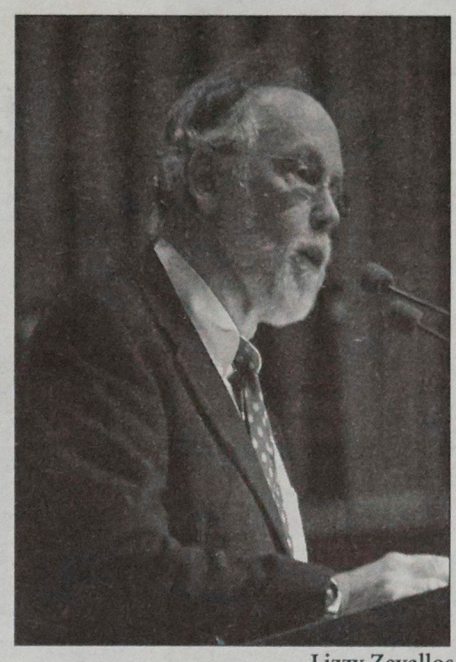
In an interesting twist on his theme of environmentalism, Lopez emphasized how important his writing has been in helping him understand the intricacies of man's relationship with the greater community. For Lopez, writing is a way of exploring both moral and personal issues.

Despite the rather general, philosophical nature of Lopez's talk, he did examine more closely several pertinent issues. One such issue was his criticism of the Bush administration's response to global warming, which he called "a repudiation of science." In a more broad censure of American politics, Lopez denounced both the Republicans and the Democrats for their failure to take control of climate change. According to Lopez, man's role in increasing the greenhouse effect has been known since the late 1970s, but no one has ever acted sufficiently on the issue. Lopez emphasized however, that it is not simply the government's problem, but one that must be solved by the general public as well.

In a moment of optimism, he praised American citizens for becoming more knowledgeable and passionate about the issue.

"People know that more than a few dark horsemen are arrayed on the horizon. They don't trust authorities. Call your neighbor has replaced call your congressman," said Lopez.

At the end of the lecture, the audience gathered in Mead Chapel gave Lopez a standing ovation. Several students asked Lopez questions, which ranged from scientific inquiries about population growth to personal questions about the role of reverence in one's life. Overall, there was a sense of satisfaction with Lopez's call to arms; those studying environmental studies were especially impressed.



Lizzy Zevallos
Barry Lopez delivers the Margolin Lecture.

"I liked how he talked about community and the growing trend towards localization. That will be the solution," remarked Charlie Hofmann '10.

Stone Conroy '10 added, "I wasn't sure what to expect from the lecture. He talked about issues above and beyond environmentalism. He seemed to be emphasizing that human beings have a capacity to do great things. He's asking why we aren't achieving that. Our generation's mission, and our personal mission, is to save the environment."

The Grille, where educated meets intoxicated

By H. Kay Merriman
Staff Writer

"This is The Grille. It is a great place to meet with professors over lunch," said student tour guide Angelo Fu '10 to wide-eyed prospective students on a tour last week. Upon matriculating to Middlebury, however, many Middlebury students see the Grille as something else: a drunken corral. "If you ever want to get rid of drunk friends, send them to The Grille," said Dale Freundlich '10.

Yet, The Grille is much more than one's first glance on a college tour or a pit stop during a night of partying; in fact, The Grille is as multi-faceted as the people who frequent it. And this reporter was determined to seek out the plethora of different personalities that inhabit The Grille on a typical Friday night.

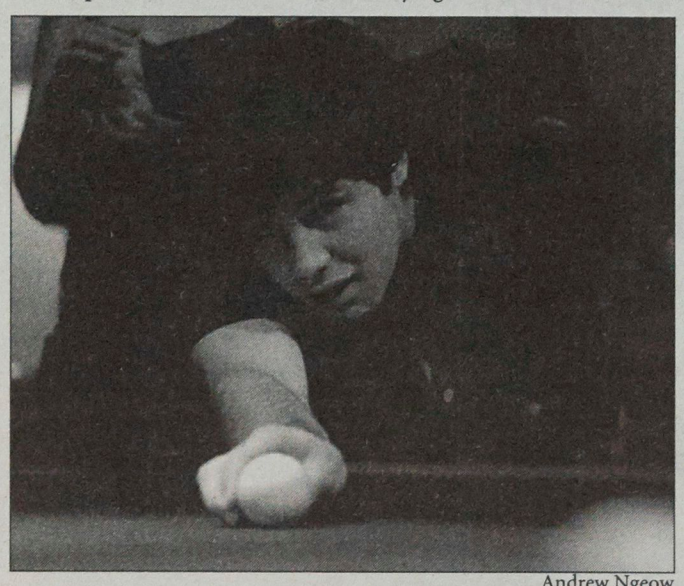
Although the intoxicated and the hungry, (and sometimes both), are thought to constitute the majority of Grille students, surprisingly, ambitious MiddKids have taken to studying, or at least pretending to study, at The Grille on the weekends.

In fact, the first table I stopped at was being used by a studious soul, Laura Dalton '10, using a Friday night to do work before her track meet the next day. She does concede, however, the drawbacks of studying in such a social space. "I wouldn't recommend trying to write a term paper or studying for a midterm at the Grille on a Friday night because, well, it's The Grille on a Friday night," she said, adding "but if you have some busy work to get done, the procrastination is avoidable, but abundant and entertaining."

Another fan of the Grille study climate, Katherine Babin '07 has taken to working on her year-long senior thesis in The Grille at night and offers some fresh perspectives on The Grille scene. While "studying," Babin has closely observed the relational counseling The Grille offers. Babin once witnessed a fight in the hallway while she was studying in a booth.

"Somehow the presence of alcohol and a pane of glass seem to prevent people from noticing my presence a mere two feet away from them," she said, adding "At one point, there was a couple clearly in some sort of an argument and both were very animated about their emotions. By the end of it all, I was ready to take sides."

And let's not forget the ones who keep everything running smoothly. Unlike the students hard at work on a Friday night, Grille Manager Steve Reigle cannot leave when he's ready for a break. He described how at times The Grille can become the college-size version of the Burger King play-place. But there are objects to throw at each other that may prove slightly more hazardous than the colored plastic balls from the ball pit. "I was standing near the Juice Bar when a chair from upstairs came crashing down five feet from me," described Reigle. The buzzing pagers with flashing red lights are entertaining for some, but also make very expensive toys, explained Reigle. "Please don't destroy, leave with, or throw out your pager. They are $110 each," he said.



Andrew Ngeow
Lining up a shot, a student takes advantage of the Grille's amenities.

The Grille's architecture, in other student's minds, challenges them to test their agility and strength.

"One night I caught a student climbing between the pool pavilion and the main deck – fortunately, he made it," Reigle recalled.

As Grille manager, Reigle also witnesses students at their finest and in their finest. He sees how for some, The Grille serves as a runway for modeling one's various fashion accessories, or lack thereof.

"Nights featuring costume parties are always very amusing," said Reigle of the well-dressed, and "the naked joggers at Pub Night were great," of the not-so-dressed. Despite the uncanny similarity between the long, green ramps of The Grille and the catwalk in Milan, The Grille has modeling restrictions. "Shoes and shirts are required by law," said Reigle.

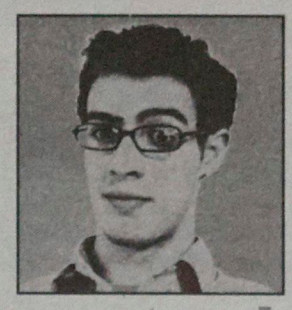
Finally, there is the loyal staff of The Grille that works tirelessly to serve the students, who often do not see as much humor in the nightly debauchery as the students do. They would like a little recognition and respect. Remember that employees, too, could use a little "Love Me Tender" every once in a while.

"We are the ones who have to clean up the wreckage of half-eaten food, paper plates and ranch dressing strewn across the dining area. It's like picking up pieces in a battle scene," said student Grille employee Bernard Geoxavier '07.

Student Grille worker Molley Kaiyoorawongs '09 described how students feel "like they can't strike up a conversation with me because I'm a worker. Spread the love. That's all I can say."

After all, the employees remember some of the most important details of your life — your favorite food, that is. If you introduce yourself, they will certainly remember your name as well. Grille worker Ben Wiechman '07 may not know all his customers by name, but he certainly knows their eating habits. "Every time I work at The Grille I come across the same person and instantaneously know he wants a chicken salad wrap with lettuce, tomatoes, sprouts, roasted red peppers, feta cheese, chipotle mayo and cucumbers, along with a seltzer water," he said. Now that's service!

So, however you decide to spend your Friday night at The Grille, just remember: respect your surroundings.



newton's laws

by Thomas Newton

We grew up with the story of Napster. And most of us at one point used Kazaa. When Kazaa fell several options sprouted up, including Limewire, Soulseek and Bittorrent. This rather long list of software goes to show the popularity of what the music industry hates about technology — the ease with which music can be illegally downloaded. What has the industry done to try and curb music piracy, aside from creating a super tacky and annoying anti-piracy commercial? They've introduced Digital Rights Management.

Digital Rights Management, or DRM, was meant to curb the immense amount of illegally downloaded music that started with the advent of high-speed Internet connections and tech-savvy teenagers.

To prevent piracy, the music industry created codes that put certain restrictions on the music that users download from legal services, such as iTunes and Napster. In iTunes, for example, when a user purchases a song for 99 cents, they are given the rights to "authorize" the song to play on up to 5 computers, put it on authorized iPods, and burn the song onto as many CDs as they like.

There are several inherent issues with DRM, however, one of them being that it is ridiculously easy to circumvent most restrictions that are imposed. Never mind the fact that hackers will always be able to reverse-engineer restrictions placed on music, there are legal ways to do the same thing, making DRM restrictions more of an annoyance than a serious protective measure. To share a song purchased from iTunes, for example, all you have to do is burn the song to a CD-R, put it in a friend's computer, copy the music to your friend's computer, and, POOF, no more DRM restrictions.

The second main issue with DRM usage by the music industry is that it is punishment for the people who are buying music legally. It's no secret downloading a song or an album illegally is easy. So easy, in fact, that paying for music tends not to make sense. Why pay 99 cents for a song that is restricted when it would be just as easy to get it for free? DRM, then, hurts those that want to follow the law by making purchased music restricted when free, easily accessible music isn't. Shouldn't the music industry make it as easy as possible for those that want to buy music legally to do so?

DRM is retrograde on all counts. It's not effective and it is an added annoyance to those who purchase musical legally. At least one of the four big record labels, EMI, has gotten its head out of the sand and made a deal with Apple to sell DRM free music on iTunes.

The music industry had no issue with previous changes in the distribution of music (ie, cassettes to CDs), but digital reproduction seems to have made them lose their senses. Digital music is here to stay, and record companies need to adapt. If not, they won't see any change in the number of pirated songs because suing teenage girls for millions isn't really the best way to get people to feel sorry for you.

Support the 2007 MS walk

in Rutland organized by Middlebury students on **Saturday April 28th at 9am.**

Transportation provided to and from the event.

Go to

www.msvermont.org

and register to walk in Rutland with team *MiddleburyStudents* or make a donation to the walk.

Contact Rayna Rogowsky, **rrogowsk@middlebury.edu** with questions.

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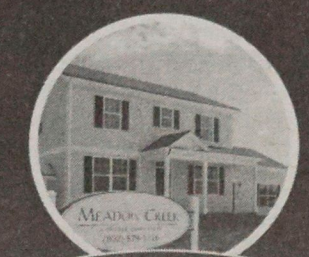

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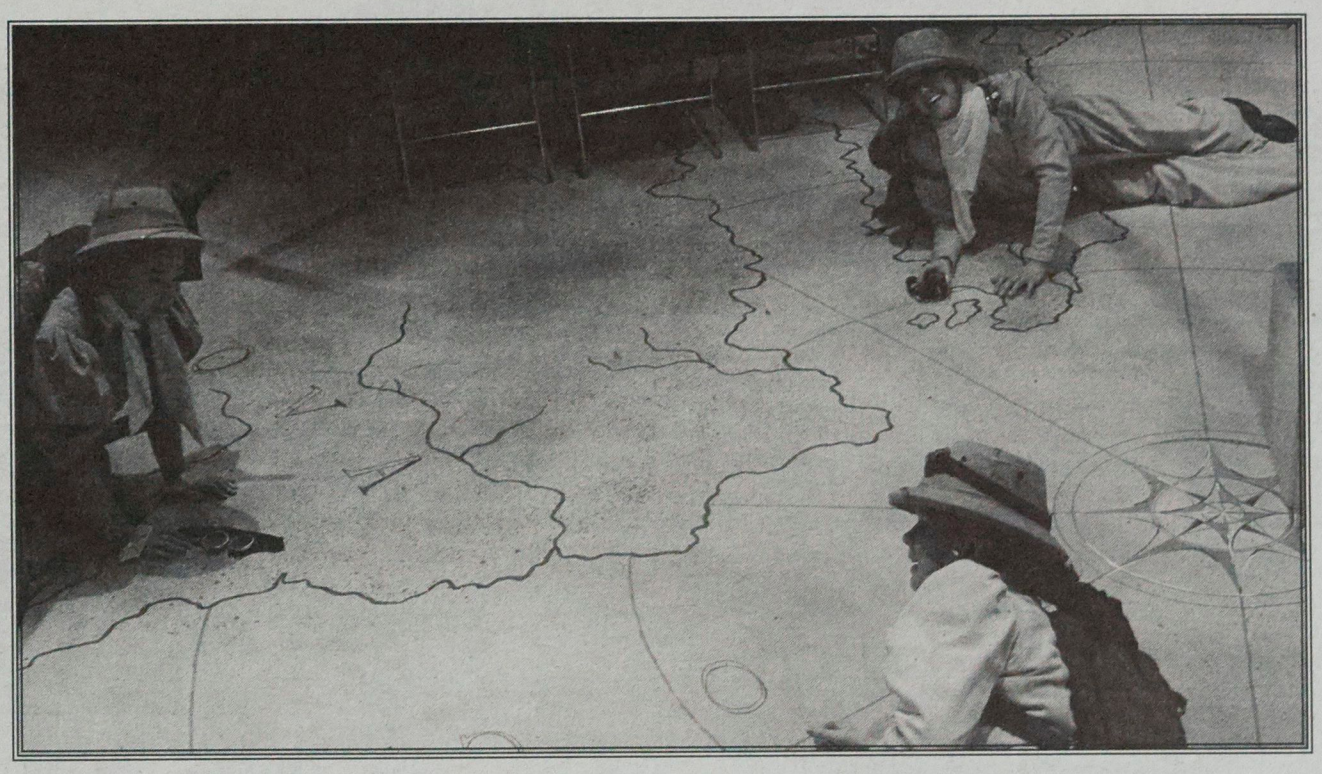
Story by Colin Foss

Photography by Angela Evancie

As three courageous, 19th-century women set off on a safari through "Terra Incognita," the rusty Hepburn Zoo became a lush jungle, an arctic tundra and finally the intersection of time and space. Exploring the romantic dreamworlds with big-eyes and even bigger characters, the pioneering adventurers took their audiences on a trek beyond bizarre. Read the full review on p. 16



editors' picks

19 **Eleemosynary**
Hepburn Zoo
8 p.m.

Senior work of Myra Palmero (directing), "Eleemosynary" displays three generations of women's desperate ambition to succeed. After all their sacrifices, their stories leave the audience asking: for what? Additional performances Friday and Saturday evening.

20 **The Departed**
Dana Auditorium
7 and 10 p.m.

Never made it to Burlington to see it before the Oscars? Me neither — now is your chance to see it for free!

VACA Formal
Center for the Arts
8 p.m.
20

The Vitality of the Artistic Community Association together with the Mill present a formal masquerade ball to be held in the Center for the Arts. The Vorcza Trio will perform — bring two forms of i.d. if you're over 21.

22 **Josh Wessler Jazz Combo**
McCullough
8 p.m.

Free coffee and tea and some great music provided by the MCAB coffee house series.

'On the Verge' explores new terrain in Zoo

By Colin Foss
Staff Writer

Only in a venue as isolated as the Hepburn Zoo can an audience manage to sit down in 21st century Vermont and feel instantly transported to a strange, new world — a new world at least for three intrepid travelers from 1888. Their origins are mysterious, and their destination is foggy, but Mary, Alexandra and Fanny have the necessary wits, courage and date bread to get them over the strange landscape of the College's most recent theatrical offering, *On the Verge, or, the Geography of Yearning.*

Eric Overmeyer's oversized play is a continual stream of dialogue, a welling up of sentiment, and sometimes just an inane ramble placed within the context of a physical and temporal journey. The pilgrimage of the three travelers is a hazily defined-trek through a place called Terra Incognita, which seems to exist on the peripherals of a timeless society. Its name is thrown around alongside such exotic locales as the Congo and Burma, and seems to contain every type of treacherous terrain the earth has to offer. To spice up the plot, upon reentering civilization the women find that they have left 1888 behind and have entered 1955. Why 1955? I'm still not sure.

Their worst struggle, however, is not Overmeyer's textual mysteries, or the bite of the artic snow, or the culture shock of entering a new century. Instead, the three women clash with the language they encounter along the way.

The verbal complexity of *On the Verge* is what makes this piece especially vibrant. Alexandra, definitely the most comical of the three women, is the first to start exclaiming things before her mind has had a chance to register them.

"I am delicious!" she says, "I mean delirious. Not delicious." Lauren Kiel '07 perfectly captures the horror of Alex's unknown utterances in her 700-level performance. Her words seem like prophetic revelations, surging up from some obscure part of her subconscious to exit her mouth and float over the play omniously. The otherworldliness of her speech achieves an eery yet playful atmosphere that made the performance fuller and invigorating.

Fanny, a romantic grammatician played by Allison Corke '08, is less interested in embracing the future they find than she is in her own story. Corke fills the role so much she stretches the seams. When her husband comes to visit her as an apparition, her desire to return to him is palpable, and her emotion strong enough to cross the terrain her letters cannot. Her romantic tendencies, however, are refocused once she decides to remain in 1955, where she has met a suave nightclub owner named Nicky who woos her with his racy dancing and bubbling jacuuzzi.

Hanging scrims and floating geometric frames formed the barriers of the stage on which Mary, Fanny and Alex trekked across Terra Incognita. The landscape was superimposed on this surreal and bare scene, which allowed a bit of clever directing in the capable hands of Alec Strum '08, and served to enliven the women's visual journey.

Jungles posed no problem to these machete-wielding bushwhackers, whose choreographed, march hacked through the imaginary brush of their surroundings. Despite the stunning visual elements of the performance, the stage seemed a little awkwardly arranged. Definite dead spots muted the action, either through the odd sequestering of certain spaces on the stage or the fragmented seating that removed some of the audience from the spectacle.

The stream of extra characters that the voyagers encounter in terra incognita is navigated by Will Damron '09, who plays eight different roles in *On the Verge*. The roles themeslves were meant to be overacted. Damron weaves in and out of characters, which included the aforementioned lounge lizard Nicky, a leather-sporting Fonzie look alike, a baby yeti and, my favorite, a German dirigible flyer-turned-cannibal named Alphonse.

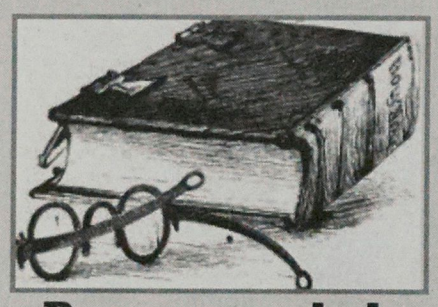
What's unnerving about this one-man parade is that the audience can feel that it is indeed all played by one man who does not fully explore their exaggerated personalities. This could be asking a lot of the unfortunate actor who attempts to tackle the dramatic gymnastics of switching characters every minute or so, but the opportunity to add a good amount of variety seemed at least partially lost.

Mary remains at the end of the play the most enigmatic character. Her stern and objective view of her travels makes us wonder what she's hiding within the folds of her scientific subconscious, but we never completely find out. Laura Harris '07 tries to plumb Mary's depths through her sensible and light 700-level performance, but despite her grasp on Mary's outward demeanor, she comes up empty-handed in trying to convey her inner motivations. When her two companions decide to stay in 1955, Mary saddles up to brave the uncertainties of Terra Incognita and continue her journey — a decision which makes the play seem unfinished but not necessarily unsatisfying.

On the Verge is a taxing play for both actors and audience. The language is nuanced and complex while the surreal locales the trio passes through demand an uncommonly imaginitive dexterity. The College's production smoothed out the journey as much as possible and managed to add its own bit of humor and moderation to a show that could have easily slipped into the absurd. Time travel is hard to talk about with a straight face, even in the theater world.

Angela Evancie

(Top) Laura Harris '07 led the explorers as a relentless Mary before being abandoned by her comrades who are content to stay in the 1950's. (Bottom) The three women hesistantly explored new destinies in the Zoo's latest theatrical offering.



Recommended Reading

by Bridget Cummings Dorman

"A girl that talks to animals. A cramped zoo. All the zoo animals going down the Mississippi in a houseboat. Fantastic!" writes local Middlebury resident, Lisel Peters-deCourval. The twelve-year-old critic is describing William B. Catton's new book, "Kathryn and the Runaway Zoo." Lisel's review represents an honest and animated impression of a book tailored to readers of her age.

While "Kathryn and the Runaway Zoo" is his first book for young adults, Catton is no stranger to the world of writing. In addition to his 20 years spent teaching at Middlebury College, Catton also taught history at Northwestern University, The University of Maryland and Princeton University. He is the son of Civil War historian Bruce Catton, and is known for his collaborative works with his father, "Two Roads to Sumter" (1963), on the causes of the Civil War, and "The Bold and Magnificent Dream: American's Founding Years 1492-1815" (1979).

Catton's love of history and nautical enterprises shines through in this recent book. It is a story about Kathryn, a thirteen-year-old animal lover, and her "runaway" zoo. Kathryn has the ability to speak with animals and together, she and her zoo friends plan an escape down the Mississippi River in search of a more suitable home for the animals.

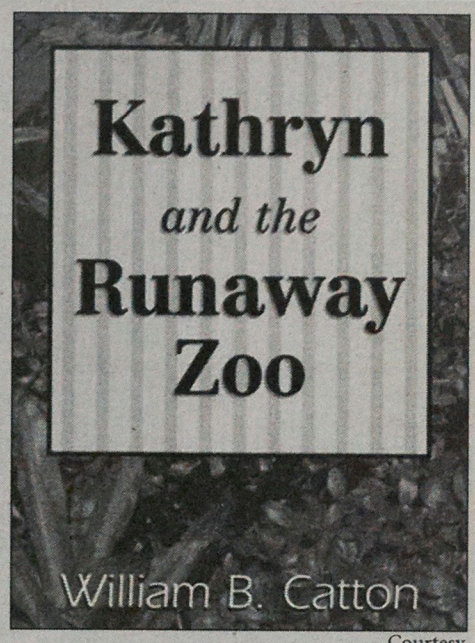
Catton conceived of the book as a tribute and memorial to his late daughter, Kathryn Cherry Catton, who died in 1978. As he explains, "[Kathryn] was an inveterate reader and lover of animals, so I wrote the kind of story she would have enjoyed about a young girl very much like herself, who befriended some zoo animals and had adventures with them."

> Catton's story asks little of our imagination, as he makes the co-existence of man and beast, predator and prey, and fact and fiction believable.

Kathryn's talent is woven into a story rich with history about the Mississippi River as well as descriptive introductions to animals across the globe. Catton's attention to the history and geography of the Mississippi and the detailed descriptions of Kathryn's animal friends make the story a balancing act between fact and fiction, or what we, the readers, believe is *fictive* or beyond imagination. Many young animal and environmental enthusiasts have discovered a "language" that exists between man and nature. Catton's story teases our awareness of this relationship and asks little of our imagination, as he makes the co-existence of man and beast, predator and prey, and fact and fiction believable.

An encyclopedia, which offers pictures and descriptions of Kathryn's friends - "Griffon," the harpy eagle, "Erin," the peregrine falcon, "Karoonda," the Australian kookaburra, "Bandit," the raccoon and "Pedro," the coati (who Catton explains is Bandit's South American cousin), to name a few -would be a great accompaniment to this tale, enhancing the young reader's experience of Kathryn's journey down the Mississippi to New Orleans on her modern day ark.

Catton makes great attempts to ensure that every detail of Kathryn's tale is justified. The narrator of her story assists the reader in understanding her otherwise far-fetched talent: "After some moments of this silent exchange of stares, [Kathryn] heard a low sound. It obviously came from the tiger, and the sound carried a meaning she suddenly understood: "Why so sad, Young Sister?" (What Kathryn actually heard, and just now began to comprehend, was in the animal language. She has supplied English translations for our convenience.)"



Courtesy

As Kathryn said of her experience on the Mississippi, "there's always something you can hardly wait to see around the next bend." So too is Kathryn's adventure with her zoo animal friends a suspenseful and exciting journey. "Kathryn and the Runaway Zoo" excites the reader's desire for knowledge, satisfies one's love of history and encourages an appreciation of the environment.

Bridget Cummings Dorman, a fourth-year student at Breadloaf School of English, and lives locally in Monkton. Citly has worked at her family's restaurant, Rosie's, in Middlebury for the past four years. She writes for a local paper, The Valley Voice.

Quartet tugs on audience's heartstrings

By Hannah Rommer
Staff Writer

The Takacs Quartet delighted the Middlebury community last Friday evening with its 19th campus performance since 1994. Playing the works of Debussy, Shostakovich and Brahms, the award-winning quartet delivered a varied program that displayed the talents of its individual players as well as the group's exceptional artistry. Their interpretation of the pieces was convincing and entertaining, and the audience responded with a generous standing ovation after the last chord of the evening was struck.

The program began with Debussy's first and only String Quartet in G minor, opus 10. The first movement served as an excellent introduction to the individual players, as the composition provided each instrument its own solo line as the movement progressed. Second violinist Karoly Schranz played a gorgeous lyrical passage with exceptional clarity and sensitivity, and cellist Andras Fejer delivered a rugged and bold passage, displaying the depth of his instrument. Throughout, first violinist Edward Dusinberre showed much agility and conviction with an overriding, driving melody.

In the second movement, violist Geraldine Walther artfully sustained a hearty but simple melodic motif over the pizzicato counter-melody being played by the other three parts. This theme moved through the violins and cello with beautiful continuity, demonstrating the quartet's surprising consistency and sensitivity to the uniqueness of each instrument. In the third movement, the violist again held the theme — this time a haunting melody accompanied by the other players — which soon grew into a trio with the first and second violins, before finally developing into full quartet orchestration. Throughout the Debussy piece, the members of the quartet impressed the audience with their thorough understanding of the work, often changing character between phrases and even measures with fluidity and dynamism.

The first violinist verbally introduced the Shostakovich String Quartet no. 11 in F minor with an appropriate amount of humor and a few musical examples. The piece, he explained, was written as a musical joke dedicated to a second violinist. It highlights the second violin in the humoresque with a ridiculously mundane passage that is repeated incessantly throughout the movement until the rest of the ensemble seems to "kill it off."

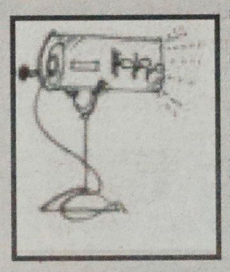
Ilhan Kim
The quartet played an unusual program Friday evening to a packed Mead Chapel.

The quartet carried this satire through the entire seven-movement work, spoofing the musical forms of the scherzo, recitative, etude and elegy. The group pulled this off expertly, without allowing the humor to become too overbearing or distracting.

After the intermission, the quartet finished its program with Brahms' String Quartet in A minor, Opus 51 no. 2, a more traditional work that again highlighted the group's exceptional communication and its exciting interpretation of the material. The second movement was particularly impressive as the melody was tossed back and forth between the second violin and viola with striking seamlessness. The fourth movement closed the concert on a robust finale, bringing the audience to its feet.

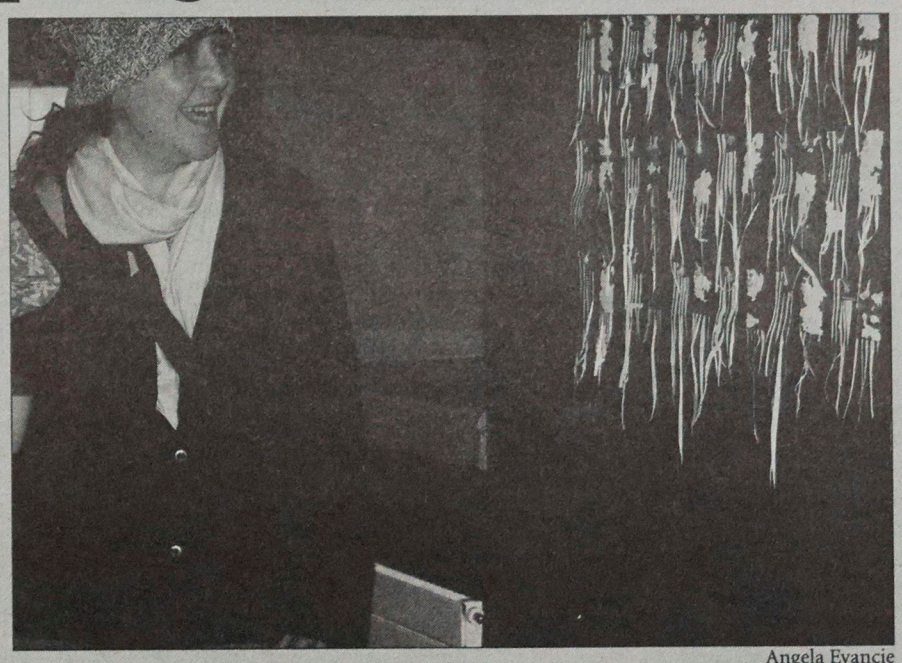
The concert took place in Mead Chapel, owing to the quartet's huge popularity in recent years. This allowed more people to attend than would have been possible in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall, but the acoustics were disappointing and did not allow much of the finer articulation to be heard throughout the sanctuary.

To hear the Takacs Quartet in any setting is a treat, but the cavernous ceiling of the chapel left one wishing for the more sophisticated engineering of a smaller, better-designed space. Despite the lackluster acoustics, the quartet left the crowd satisfied, impressed and hoping that the Takacs Quartet will be back for their 20th program at Middlebury.



Mini Spotlight on... Ian Peach

Frequenters of the Gamut Room have Senior Ian Peach to thank for the recently added artistic ambience to the student-run space. Peach's contributions include under-developed photographs sporting super-imposed typed poetry and an innovative interpretation of the American Flag. Every month, the social space — as well as hosting student musical performances — highlights a new student artist, exhibiting his or her work among the already inspired and colorful walls. Peach, the Gamut Room's April Artist of the Month, paused from his creative endeavors to give *The Middlebury Campus* insight into the workings of his visionary process.



Angela Evancie
A student enjoys Peach's newly-installed artwork, which lit up the walls of the Gamut Room.

***The Middlebury Campus:* How did you first discover that you had artistic talent?**

Ian Peach: It has been less about talent and more about a need to create, gather and celebrate imagination.

***TC:* Did you design the art specifically for the Gamut Room or was it a working process long beforehand?**

IP: The entire gallery set up is an installation. Some parts express process and past ideas, others are hopeful for human interaction.

***TC:* What was your inspiration for the pieces?**

IP: First and foremost they are inspired by the weather. After that — action, process and light.

***TC:* How do you feel about your work being displayed in an entirely student run space? What do you think it adds to the Gamut Room and what do you hope students will take from it?**

IP: It was a joy to be in a space where the walls were painted by students and a place where I could walk into the kitchen and make a quesadilla. I hope that students will be encouraged to re-explore and re-invent the manicured campus, finding the dirty basements and leaving their marks on the lawns and rooftops.

***TC:* How would other student hopefuls go about getting their work displayed in the Gamut Room or other campus hot spots?**

IP: To get your work displayed in the Gamut room you have to have dated the manager. Or steal them fruit from the dinning hall so they can sell it to customers for a profit. Art is for profit. Creativity is for capital.

***TC:* Do you have any other projects that you are working on? Are there any other artistic aspirations in the works?**

IP: Lately I have been working with lampshades stacked into totems of light and internally illuminated. I plan on filling a dark basement with these poles of shaded light and seeing how that feels.

—Melissa Marshall

for the record
by Emily Temple

According to the jacket of the album, "*The Adventures of Ghosthorse & Stillborn* is a departure from the obscured blur of stained glass *rêve* to a more self-exploitive memoir. Parts are dreamy and parts are savage, but, as with an opera where death represents a secret heaven, the whole record feels like a black diamond in the snow. From her humble beginnings in the South of France, the saga sailed the Seven Seas all the way to that icy crack in the Earth's crust just outside of Reykjavik. Upon return to her Parisian homeland she shared a mystical rendezvous with beautiful sailors Pierre et Gilles, the album cover being the consequence of that affair."

Um. What? First of all, what does a black diamond in the snow actually feel like? Because I think it at least *sounds* a bit more classically simple than this album does. Rather, CocoRosie's new release is a sample-happy carnival romp, both weirder and more polished than either of their previous full -lengths. Sisters Sierra and Bianca Casady are known for their casual recording techniques — for example, playing piano with one hand and holding the tape recorder with the other or playing guitar on a bike — but they've graduated to the shiny world of fancy microphones and studio equipment, and you can tell. It's made their sound a little more epic, more expansive and unfortunately, quite a bit less organic sounding.

Critics are quick to label CocoRosie as "freak-folk." I suppose there is no better term, though the word on the street is that many of the crowned "leaders" of the "genre," notably Devendra Banhart — an ex-thing of Sierra's — disapprove of its usage. Banhart has rejected it, and actually the whole sub-genre labeling culture that we've developed, as "stupid and tacky." In a certain sense, he's right — just because the critics have made up a word to call the kind of music he plays doesn't make him responsible for it or for "the movement." But on the other hand, Banhart can calm down a little. People just need words for things. And it's hard to put a name on the brand of irreverent and folkish tomfoolery that makes CocoRosie so interesting. Half the time they sound like they're playing music on plastic chew toys, while other times they're like a pair of screaming Joanna Newsoms. *The Adventures of Ghosthorse & Stillborn* is all over the place — the girls manage to incorporate elements of just about every genre there is: hip-hop, reggae, classical, folk, bathtub, fork, and elephant. It's pretty great.

There are some serious missteps, however, such as the operatic interlude on "Japan," which completely ruins an otherwise gloriously bouncy, island-flavored track, and "Girl & the Geese," which is just a missed opportunity. There's something annoying about them, too, and it's not just the obnoxiously self-conscious press releases, although that's part of it. The baby-talk thing is interesting, for a while, but eventually they're just squeaking along, and the gimmick isn't working any more. Some of their tracks are brilliant, but the ones that aren't feel forced and pretentious. When CocoRosie are at their best, their music is complex, oddly augmented, and gorgeously interesting, as in "Werewolf," a semi-autobiographical father story, and the almost poppy, but lovely "Rainbowarriors."

It seems appropriate to reference a children's rhyme, so think of CocoRosie as the little girl who had a little curl: when she was good she was very very good, and when she was bad she was horrid. Parts *are* dreamy, parts are certainly savage, and though I don't know about the diamond in the snow thing or any mystical rendezvous, *The Adventures of Ghosthorse & Stillborn* is an abnormally bold, awesomely obnoxious, awfully wonderful playground to explore. So strap on your fairy wings and combat boots, and get lost.

Regally Blonde
By Astri von Arbin Ahlander

I was in Sweden over the break, experiencing what we have yet to see at Middlebury: spring. The temperature in Stockholm blew my travel buddy and me away with warm breezes and constant sunshine over the glittering water of what is appropriately called the Venice of the North. With the sun comes attractive people, all sneaking out of their winter hibernation to sit at cafés, lounge leisurely in the parks or slap the concrete with the season's latest metallic-colored flip-flops. And with the sun also come the sunglasses.

For the past couple of years, sunglass size has matched the American mentality of "bigger is better." While celebs slim down to skeletal shadows, they are choosing to super-size their shades. On the pages of all the tabloids, Hollywood stars are sporting shades so wide they're basically wearing masks. Arguably, this is a good thing for that particular crowd. Having trendy accessories serve double duty as disguise certainly seems like a genius idea for those plagued by the paparazzi. But what about us non-famous fashion conscious commoners? The last thing we want is *not* to be recognized, right? Big shades are also shady in another way: the sunglass fraud. How many times have you seen a really hot guy or girl and gotten excited until they take their giant sunglasses off and you realize it was all a cover-up?

Stockholm is a city of fashionistas. So much so, that many fashion houses do research in the trend sensitive metropolis, testing out new styles to see if the Swedes will like it. If it catches in Stockholm, it usually means it'll be a global hit. And so, while I was in the city, I took to observing the sunglass habits of the Swedes. It seems that the full-face-cover look is persisting. But added on this season is an increased focus on bling. A couple of years ago, Chanel filled all of the corners of our eyes with rhinestones. Now it seems that, after a couple of seasons of toned-down branding, note: this certainly does not apply across the board, some brands have never been able to get enough of their own logo. The industry has decided to remind us who they are. No risk you'll be paying a couple of hundred dollars without the whole world knowing that you did this season. Namedropping is the new rhinestone.

I read an article a while back that discussed the rise of *in*conspicuous consumption as the new trend for the really heavy money hitters. As luxury brands spread across the economic spectrum, and "anyone" can be sporting the Burberry print, the article argued that wealthy people increasingly look for the expensive luxury goods that aren't loud with recognizable logos and patterns. This may be true for the really rich, but conspicuous consumption still seems to be the name of the game for the rest of us. If you are someone who wants to feel like a million bucks without advertising it to the world, look at Prada's shades this season, and stay far away for Christian Dior. Perhaps best of all is what can be found in Ray-Ban's collection. Ray-Ban is an often-overlooked old-time favorite. As the racks scream with mutant size shades and gaudy branding, I take refuge in the satisfaction of Ray-Ban's simple design and minimal logos. Stretch your horizons. Look beyond the predictable aviators and check out their return to the retro eighties classic. It may be a bit more difficult to pull off the square frames than the huge bubble blowout's that dominate the other brands, but you'll be recognized as a sleek charmer in a sea of tacky namedroppers.

High energy level at Higher Ground
Tokyo Police Club and Cold War Kids heat up stage

By Ramona Richards
Staff Writer

You thought Cold War Kids were an indie rock band? Me too. But on April Fool's Day when the group played at Higher Ground in Burlington, they played surprisingly like a lounge act. The foursome produced a sound that was much jazzier than what can be heard on the *Robbers & Cowards* album, with lead Nathan Willet breaking piano strings all over the place. Willet's compared the responsibility of toting a piano with real strings to bringing an infant on tour — an exaggeration, I decided, since the changing of broken stings caused relatively little commotion between songs. It was worthwhile, however, to haul the genuine string-pounding piano along even if it made it easier for us to picture Willet in some candlelit dive as a solo pianist rather than lead of a rock band at Higher Ground.

Before the Cold War Kids took the stage, however, four beautiful and possibly pre-pubescent boys in very fitted jeans performed. Together they were the Tokyo Police Club. Having little to do with Japanese law enforcement, these young men rocked. While it would have been a challenge for them to steal the show from the headliners, their set was far superior in dancability than anything heard from Cold War Kids. Tokyo Police Club was harder, punkier and more succinct. The keyboardist tended to test his synthesizer effects before each new song, but we didn't mind getting a sample of what was coming because every song coming was good.

Cold War Kids started with "We Used to Vacation," and I was instantly impressed with the percussion. Drummer Matt Aveiro seemed to be on the verge of spiritual ecstasy every time he got to use his string of shells, and kept songs together with some skilled transitions. More stunning was guitarist Jonnie Russell's coordination in whacking a maraca against a cymbal that was precariously set atop a wooden crate. It sounds complicated because it was. I am still not sure how he managed this, especially while hunched with his instrument still strapped around him, but it was inspired.

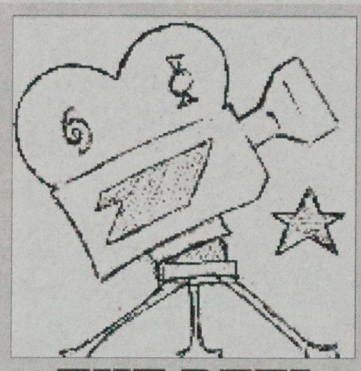
The keyboardist of Tokyo Police Club provided a sequel to this maraca/cymbal/crate performance later in the set when Cold War Kids invited all members of both opening bands to join in for "Saint John." The bands brought onstage anything they could find to bang a stick on — an empty pony keg, a Grey Goose bottle that probably wasn't empty and the famed cymbal-on-a-crate as well as other sundry items. Audience members then witnessed twelve men onstage yelling, thrashing around and having a genuinely raucous time. Naturally, we followed suite. We couldn't help it.

Courtesy
Cold War Kids and Tokyo Police Club brought raucous rhythm to the city of Burlington.

The one downfall to a percussion section ten men strong is a very crowded stage and lots of flailing limbs. At one point we had to compromise between seeing it all up close and preserving our lives, because Matt Maust, Cold War Kids' bassist, had little control of the erratic motions of his instrument. He seemed to be playing the entire show while very much distracted by chronic itching and impatient spasms, surmised to be brought upon by some type of amphetamine. Fortunately he missed, though very narrowly, inflicting cranial injury to his lead singer who was seated at the piano, and even came close to decking some beloved, and totally defenseless, front-row enthusiasts.

Quite unfortunately, I did not arrive early enough to hear Delta Spirit, the three-man band that preceded Tokyo Police Club. But judging by the company they keep on tour and Delta Spirit's contribution to some fantastic communal percussion during "Saint John," we can bet they were pretty great. Tokyo Police Club reminded me of the days when the Warped Tour was cool, and earned my respect by making me and fellow audience members dance. Cold War Kids left me somewhat unfulfilled, not because I completely shunned what they were doing with the jazz theme, but only because I wanted more. I sincerely expected an encore and held out until the venue lights came on when I realized that the show was really over.

While Cold War Kids was good music that I hope to see more of, I expected more adrenaline, especially following an opener with such verve. As Willet announced mid-show, he was not of the head-banger mentality of coercing the crowd to move, but I sort of wish he had been. At least we now know that Tokyo Police Club can be counted on for a high energy show.



THE REEL CRITIC

by Josh Wessler

MOVIE | The Lives of Others
DIRECTOR | Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck
STARRING | Ulrich Mühe, Sebastian Koch, Martina Gedeck

In director Donnersmack's East Germany, the well-fed, bloated ego police agents stand guard over the country's theatres and coffee shops, ready to pounce on any sign of subversion from artists and other enemies. Captain Weisler (Ulrich Mühe), freshly-starched wunderkind of the Stasi intelligence unit, marks a blue line next to a Stasi recruit that questions the morality of his interrogation tactics. Mühe manages to transform Weisler's stoicism into a character as lonely as he is imposing. In contrast to Weisler's misanthropy, the playwright Georg Dreyman (Sebastian Koch) is one of the few socialites able to avoid being blacklisted. For political reasons beyond his understanding, he survives on the graces of key state ministers. Weisler, who disdains political machinations, quickly finds Dreyman suspicious, and personally offers to monitor Dreyman's activities. As much as the movie pushes us to resent Weisler, the attention he anonymously gives to Dreyman is strangely comforting.

This taut character study makes for an instant classic, reminiscent of "Marathon Man" or "The French Connection." It's also among the best of recent efforts to revisit the collective demons of Europe's Cold War. "The Lives of Others" challenges us to embrace a dark, moody and utterly beautiful East Germany wracked by the epic battles between art and politics, and their mutual need for each other.

Weisler is disgusted by the corruption he finds within the socialist ranks. Of particular concern is his superior, a toothless sex fiend named Bruno Hempf (Thomas Thieme). Hempf uses his power to carry on an affair with Christa-Maria Sieland (Martina Gedeck), Dreyman's girlfriend.

This is the first major release for director Donnersmarck, who also wrote the movie, and it is as memorable and stylish a debut as Spike Lee's "She's Gotta Have It" or, more recently, Rian Johnson's "Brick."

Donnersmarck washes his night shots with a high contrast, gray-green hue. Alternately, when his characters face a moral reckoning, Donnersmarck opens the aperture and softens the frame — these silhouetted characters reveal their own insecurities. At one point, Dreyman visits his friend Albert Jerska (Volkmar Kleinert), disillusioned and jobless since being blacklisted. His eerily luminous apartment is the vaulted, dusty tomb of an artist being buried alive. Jerska asks Dreyman if there is hope that he will work again, knowing Dreyman recently spoke with Minister Hempf. Dreyman replies, enigmatically, "There is concrete hope, literally."

At length, Dreyman agrees to publish a piece critical of the East in a West German magazine. Weisler, never one to do anything moderately, decides to protect Dreyman's world, anonymously as always, and helps to cover up his illegal publishing. The two men move in unison through a hazy limbo, like strangers on a speeding train. A supervisor, with deadly import, asks Weisler, "Are you still on the right side?" We know the answer to that question has more meanings than he could imagine.

Towards the end of the movie, there's a sudden change when the Berlin Wall is brought down. The streets seem brighter and dirtier, as if the Wall's shadow masked the haphazard graffiti that was always there. A certain mystique is lost in this new bright world, which happens to be ours. What is especially unsettling about the film is that it's never completely clear that life was so bad before the Cold War ended. As Minister Hempf articulates, "I know the Party needs artists, but artists need the Party more." As today's filmmakers begin returning en masse to this era for artistic inspiration, his statement becomes newly self-evident.

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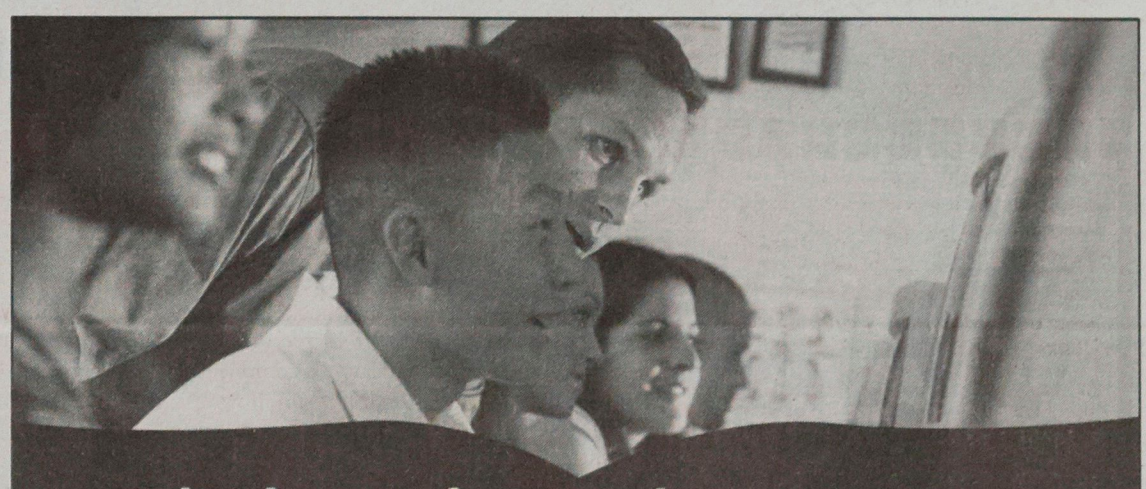

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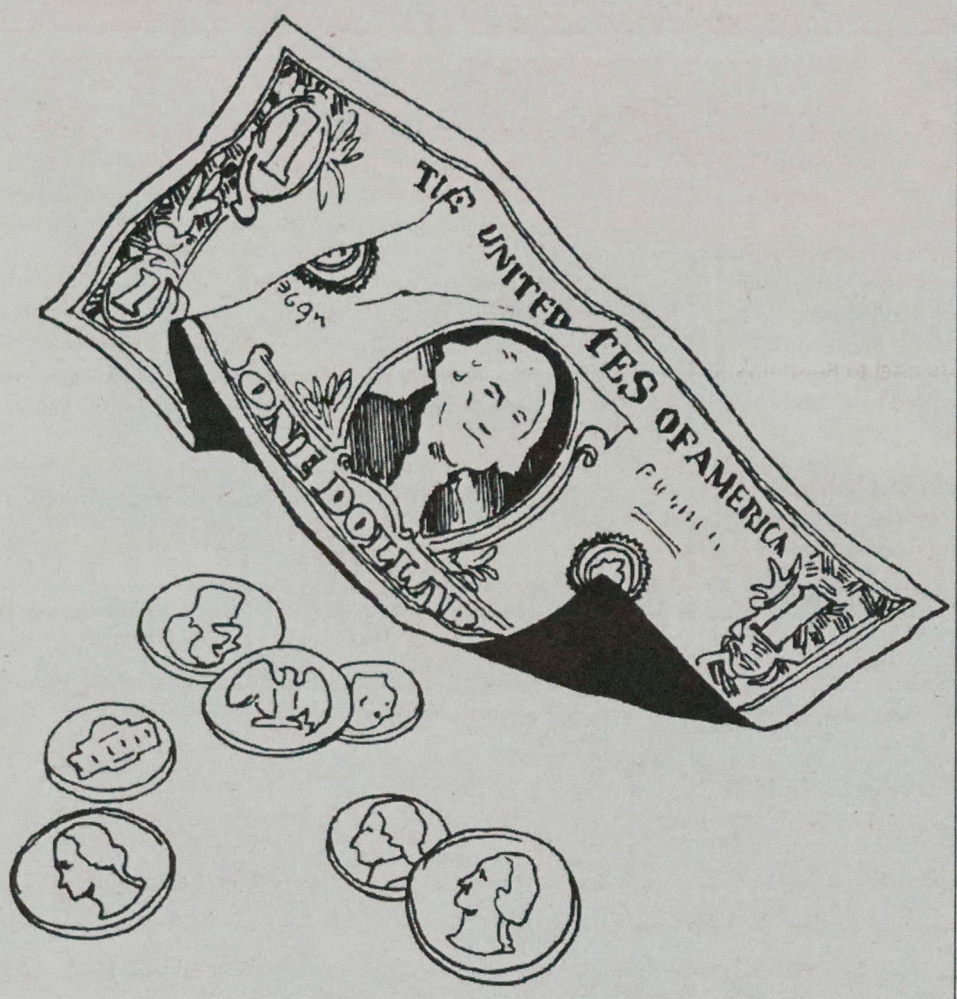

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INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Although first-year tennis player Eliot Jia is from Mount Desert, Maine, there is nothing barren about his, or the rest of the men's tennis team's performance so far this season.

The number-three ranked Panthers hosted and defeated Williams on the Proctor courts Wednesday to reach a 12-1 record as they ate the number-six ranked Ephs for dessert.

A few days earlier, Jia and fellow first-year Andrew Lee contributed to the Panthers' glowing record, as they teamed up to beat Hamilton and Colby-Sawyer on April 6-7.

The Jia/Lee duo dominated their opponents, annihilating all competition and leaving the courts 2-0 on the weekend.

The tennis courts are not the only courts Jia courts. In between tennis seasons he plays for the men's club squash team.

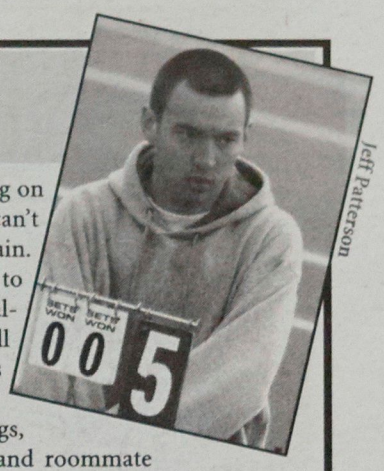
While he may compete side-by-side with Lee as a doubles partner, Jia and first-year Micah Wood would seem to know each other equally well, as they are close rivals on the squash ladder.

It appears, however, that the advantage of playing both the fall and spring seasons with Jia has led Lee to learn more about him than winter-only teammate Wood.

Lee hammered Wood on the question of what kind of rackets Jia uses for each sport. For tennis Jia uses a Wilson nCode. It is a Dunlop Hot Melt racket for squash.

Speaking of Hot Melts, when Jia feels like eating one he heads to Quizno's rather than Subway.

While Jia believes Battell is the worst first -year housing on campus, he can't really complain. He never has to face the reality of Battell bathrooms on weekend mornings, because he and roommate Andrew Banadda '10 have a private one, as part of their two-room double.



Jeff Patterson

In their first year of college, a lot of time remains for Wood, Lee and Jia to learn more about each other, both on and off the courts.

When asked to name one thing that people probably don't know about him, Jia answered that he's been to see Journey live, while Wood said that Jia is a Guitar Hero fiend.

Jia has been an integral part of the men's tennis team's journey through the season thus far.

He and the rest of the Panthers hope to keep their music rolling into their home matchup against Skidmore on April 18.

— Brooke Farquhar

First- year Eliot Jia rallies with *The Campus*

	Jia	Wood	Lee
What kind of racket do you use for squash and tennis?	Dunlop for Squash, Wilson for Tennis	Dunlop, always (.5)	Dunlop for Squash, Wilson for Tennis (1)
Federer or Nadal?	Nadal	Federer (0)	Federer (0)
What's your favorite Bond movie?	Casino Royale	Casino Royale (1)	Casino Royale (1)
Which brand of tennis balls (and number) do you prefer?	Wilson #2	Prince #3 (0)	Wilson #3 (.5)
How do you feel about wearing tennis whites?	I love it	He loves the whites (1)	He loves it (1)
If you weren't always in season, which IM sport would you play?	Soccer	Hockey (0)	Dodgeball (0)
Sweat Wristbands: too trendy?	Never	No (1)	Nope (1)
final score		3.5	4.5

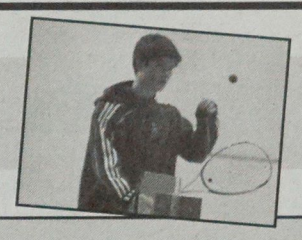
PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
April 10 April 14	Men's Lacrosse	Rennselear Trinity (2OT)	11-2 W 11-10 L	Nick Bastis '07, Tom Petty '09 and Skyler Hopkins '09 each had two goals in the team's second double-OT loss of the year.
April 11	Baseball	Plymouth State	8-2 W	Steve Shortle '09 got the win, scattering five hits over six innings while also posting four Ks in the Panther's home-opener.
April 14 April 15	Men's Tennis	Bowdoin Bates	7-2 W 9-0 W	Alex Scott '07 lost his first set to Bowdoin's Garrett Gates but bounced back, winning 4-6, 6-0, 6-4.
April 14 April 15	Women's Tennis	Bowdoin Bates	7-2 L 9-0 W	Bowdoin swept the doubles matches in Brunswick, Me. but Middlebury did the same to Bates on Sunday.
April 14	Softball	Williams	2-1 W 13-9 L 11-4 L	The softball team played at a disadvantage after they were forced to travel to Williams due to its unplayable field.

BY THE NUMBERS

13-2	Halftime score of the Middlebury-Trinity women's lax game. Amanda Smith '08, Reid Berrien '08 and Dana Heritage '10 each scored as many goals as Trinity had at the half.
15-13	Final score of the Middlebury-Trinity lax game. The Bantams scored eight unanswered goals at one point.
6-3	Record of the men's lacrosse team after nine games this season — the same record they had after nine games last season.
2-0	Record for the men's lacrosse team in overtime, nine games through the season last year.
0-2	Record for the men's lacrosse team in overtime, nine games through the season this year.

Editors' Picks



Questions of the week	Brooke Farquhar	Simon Keyes	Jeff Patterson
Will the softball team score more runs in the first, second or third game against Amherst?	SECOND While they lost the second game to Williams last Saturday, the second was also the game in which they scored the most runs — by a five-run margin.	THIRD Seeing that Jeff is now over .500 with his picks, and that my picks have been lousy, I may start copying his.	THIRD Three is my lucky number.
Which baseball team will hit more doubles this weekend, Middlebury or Amherst?	AMHERST Middlebury will take the series, but with only one more game played than the Panthers, the Lord Jeffs have five more doubles on the season.	MIDDLEBURY Whatever logic I've been basing my picks on has been completeley unreliable, so I flipped a coin. It worked last week.	MIDDLEBURY Amherst's third baseman Brendan Powers does not have very much power.
Will there be a 4-0 sweep in the first round of the NBA playoffs?	YES If Golden State makes it to the playoffs, they will be massacred by the Mavericks.	YES This time I won't copy Jeff, I think you can never count out a team with Kobe. I'll copy Brooke instead.	YES I think the Suns can evaporate the Lakers. Steve Nash will dash by the five yellow defenders before they know what hit them.
Name a player that will finish in the top-10 at the Zurich Classic golf tournament.	CHRIS COUCH He's defending his title from last year, so he can't afford to be a La-Z-Boy sitting on the figurative winner's couch.	CHARLES HOWELL III He quietly has snuck into third on the money list. On a different note, there is nothing remotely *classic* about the Zurich Classic.	DAVID TOMS The local boy will tame the TPC of Louisiana, and record his fifth top-10 finish of the young year.
Who will win the Champions League semifinal on April 24, Manchester United or AC Milan?	MANCHESTER UNITED An all-English final is all-inevitable.	MANCHESTER UNITED Spearheaded by the best manager in soccer, Sir Alex Ferguson, United will bring Old Trafford its first Champions League title since the 1998-1999 season.	MANCHESTER UNITED Cristiano Ronaldo and Ryan Giggs will demonstrate why the English Premier League is the premier league .
Record	**6-9 (.400)**	**5-13 (.278)**	**27-26 (.509)**

by Jeff Klein

One disappointing basketball tournament has ended and a new one is beginning: the NBA playoffs are almost upon us. This year a bunch of teams have a realistic shot at the title. Here are my predictions for Saturday:

East

No. 1 Pistons vs. No. 8 Magic: Once again, the Pistons are the favorite to get out of the East. They feature an impressive lineup that doesn't have many weaknesses. Chauncey Billups has shown the composure and leadership necessary to perform under playoff pressure, Tayshaun Prince is both a pesky defender and a scoring threat and Rip Hamilton always shows up with 20.1 points per game. For Orlando, Dwight Howard simply doesn't have enough help to pull the upset. *Prediction: Pistons in five.*

No. 2 Bulls vs. No. 7 Nets: The Bulls really impress me this year. They showed how successful a team can be when it plays "team" basketball. They share the rock — four players average double-digits in scoring — and they play solid team defense, allowing only 93.9 points per game. The Nets have also impressed me, but I still see the Bulls prevailing with relative ease. *Prediction: Bulls in six.*

No. 3 Raptors vs. No. 6 Wizards: This matchup features two teams going in completely opposite directions. The Raptors have been the feel-good story of the season. Nobody expected them to even contend this year, but Chris Bosh has led his team to a division title and home-court advantage for the first time in team history. The Wizards, meanwhile, have lost Gilbert Arenas and Caron Butler to season-ending injuries. *Prediction: Raptors in five.*

No. 4 Heat vs. No.5 Cavaliers: This is a series loaded with superstar talent. With D-Wade vs. LeBron, could it get better? Well, hold on a second. Wade was sidelined for six weeks with a dislocated shoulder and LeBron is a turnover machine who misses free-throws in crucial situations. Look for Shaq to lead Miami one step further to defend its title. *Prediction: Heat in six.*

West

No. 1 Mavericks vs. No. 8 Warriors: The Mavs are on a mission to avenge their defeat in last season's championship. Dirk Nowitzki will not let his team down again. Golden State is actually leading the season series against Dallas 2-0 (pending Tuesday night's result) and could cause the Mavs some trouble, but Dallas will not be denied. *Prediction: Mavericks in five.*

No. 2 Suns vs. No. 7 Lakers: Can the Suns win a championship with the style of basketball they play? Their defense is porous, and we all know that defense wins championships. Still, the Lakers have relied too much on Kobe to carry the team. *Prediction: Suns in five*

No. 3 Spurs vs. No. 6 Nuggets: Boy, these two teams are hot right now. The Spurs have been absolutely torrid over the last few months, posting a remarkable 25-3 record since Feb. 13. The Nuggets have also been on fire, winning eight games in a row before losing last week to Memphis. I'm tempted to pick the upset here, but you can't argue against San Antonio's history of clutch postseason play with the group that they have. *Prediction: Spurs in seven.*

No. 4 Rockets vs. No. 5 Jazz: After being the surprise of the league earlier in the season, the Jazz have struggled mightily, losing 12 out of their last 17. They have clinched the Northwest division title, but they will have their hands full with the Rockets, who feature a killer one-two punch in T-Mac and Yao. I like the Jazz and admire their team style of play, but I can't see them winning this series. *Prediction: Rockets in six.*

Shortle was rock-solid vs. Plymouth

By Andrew Schlegel
Staff Writer

The Panthers easily defeated Plymouth State 8-2 on Forbes Field with what Tri-Captain Nick Lefeber '08 described as "good displays of hitting particularly from the bottom of the order, good defense, good pitching from Steve Shortle."

After repeated delays, the weather finally permitted the Middlebury baseball team to play its home-opener. In the first inning, Plymouth State was the first to get on the board. Josh Labossiere doubled to left and Chip Hale drove him in with a single driven up the middle. But Panther starter Steve Shortle '09 stopped the bleeding by striking out the final batter of the inning.

Baseball

Wednesday, April 11

Middlebury	8
Plymouth State	2

The Panthers responded in the bottom of the first with an equalizing run. Plymouth State let up two walks with two outs, putting runners on base for Mark Shimrock '09. Shimrock came through with a single to center. Tri-Captain Noah Walker '07 scored off the single, giving Shimrock the run batted in.

In the third inning, the Panthers struck again, adding another run off the bat of Shimrock. His RBI double drove in Walker for the second run of the game.

Then, in the fourth inning, the Panthers padded their lead with an additional three runs, giving them the 5-1 lead. Alex Blair '10 drove in Peter Bourdon '09 with an infield single. Gabe Broughton '08 and John Lanahan '08 also got hits, plating two more runs.

The Panthers sealed the 8-2 win with two runs in the fifth and one more in the seventh.

"The offense got great production from the bottom of the order," wrote Walker, "and the team did a great job of just manufacturing runs."

Shortle picked up his first win of the season with a six-inning outing. He struck out four batters and allowed two runs. Joe Brayton suffered the loss for Plymouth State in four innings of work. He allowed five earned runs off of eight hits.

First-year Alex Blair was the hot hitter of the game, going three for three with a pair of runs batted in. Broughton and Shimrock each ended the day with two hits and two runs batted in. For Plymouth State, Labossiere went two for four and Hale went two for three.

The Panthers were supposed to take on Bates this weekend in an away double-header, but because of the snow and rainstorms, the games were postponed until May 6th.

Lefeber said, "everything is coming together and I think we're going to be ready for next weekend's three games at Amherst. It's the biggest weekend of the year and will probably decide if we go to the playoffs."

The Amherst set of games will be exciting, but if the Panthers continue to get good outings from their pitchers and back it up with solid all around hitting and fielding, then they should be able to make another playoff run.

Jeff Patterson

Erich Enns '10 does his best "Charlie Hustle" impression as he beats the throw home after a passed ball in the bottom of the fifth inning in Wednesday's 8-2 win against Plymouth State.

Women beat alum on alumnae weekend

Continued from page 24

utes, scoring another two goals.

With the lead at just two, the Panthers' strong defensive play preserved the victory.

"Fortunately we were able to hold on to the lead and pull out the win," wrote Edelen.

Bowie finished the day with nine saves in the first 43 minutes of play and Whitney Wildrick '08 picked up an additional four saves over the final 17 minutes in a relief appearance.

It was the Panthers' sixth straight victory, and it increased their impressive season record to 7-1.

In addition to the hard fought victory against Trinity, Middlebury used the occasion to participate in another battle — this one against global warming.

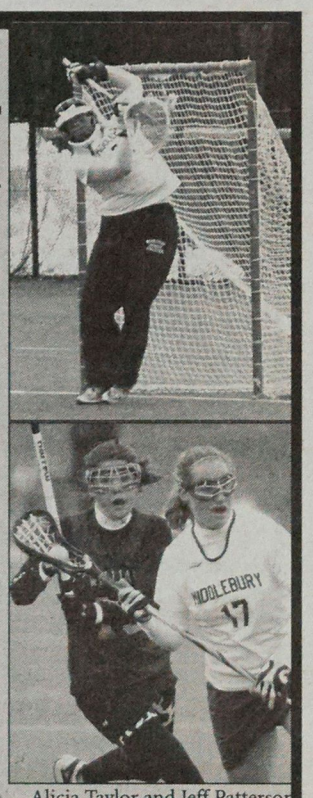
Joining with participants throughout the country, the team partook in the "Step it Up" National Day of Climate Action on Saturday afternoon. An initiative formulated by Environmental Studies Scholar in Residence, Bill McKibben, the Step It Up campaign is calling on Congress to reduce carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050. The Panthers created a banner and close to 250 Middlebury and Trinity players, parents, alumni and fans posed for picture with it following the game to show their support for the cause.

The next three games for the women's lacrosse team are against NESCAC rivals. Bates comes to town on Wednesday April 18, before the Panthers head to Connecticut to face Wesleyan and Connecticut College. At 5-0, the Panthers will be looking to maintain their current undefeated record in league play so far this season.

If last year's victories are any indication of what is to come, the Panthers should have a lot of confidence going into these games. In the 2006 season, Middlebury outscored the Bobcats, Cardinals and Camels by a combined 28 goals.

MIDDLEBURY POWER RANKINGS

Rank	4/18	Team	Simon Says...
1	1	W. Lacrosse (7-1)	It's good to be doing the Power Rankings again. I can't say that I am all that good at the Editors' Picks.
2	2	M. Tennis (13-1)	This team could be No. 1. They came within one game of being undefeated so far this season.
3	3	W. Tennis (10-3)	Definitely a top-NESCAC team, but to rise in these rankings, they'll have to beat Bowdoin eventually.
4	4	M. Lacrosse (6-3)	They probably should be 8-1 after two double-OT losses. Maybe the early bad luck will change later on.
5	5	Softball (12-7)	They have to improve on their 2-2 NESCAC record, but a 10-5 non-conference record ain't too shabby.
6	6	Baseball (8-8)	Jack Britton '08 has a sub-one WHIP and a sub-one ERA. He should carry the team up the rankings.
7	7	Track & Field	At least all this rain is making the life of the person whose job it is to fill the steeplechase pit easier.
8	8	W. Golf	As an avid golfer, and with the Ralph Myhre a quagmire, I feel bad doing this. I expect this team to rise.



Alicia Taylor and Jeff Patterson

Goalie Whitney Wildrick '08 and midfielder Reid Berrien '08 play for Simon's top team

Alex Palma out-duels Alex Palmisano '07

By Andrew Donnantuono
Staff Writer

For men's lacrosse, 2007 has been a tale of two seasons. Undefeated at home (6-0) and winless on the road (0-3), Middlebury continued that trend last week with an 11-2 trouncing of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) at home on April 10 before losing in double-overtime 11-10 at Trinity on Saturday. With four regular-season games to go — including two against pace-setters Tufts and Wesleyan — Middlebury is tied with Williams for fourth place in the NESCAC.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Tuesday, April 10

Middlebury	11
RPI	2

saturday, April 14

Middlebury	10
Trinity (2OT)	11

Middlebury picked up where it left off against Amherst two weekends ago (when it assailed the Lord Jeffs with 59 shots) by beating RPI's goalie John Thibdeau four times in the opening quarter. Midfielder Rory Sanborn '08 opened the scoring when he fooled Thibdeau with a sidearm crank. The latter was beaten three more times, once through the wickets by a bounce shot from captain Nick Bastis '07. Bastis also assisted on the Sanborn goal.

Josh Secora pulled one back for RPI with 11:57 left in the second quarter. Middlebury and RPI then exchanged goals. First, Bastis picked up his second unassisted-goal tally of the afternoon at 8:10. Then, after a quick strike by Briggs Thompson following the intermission, Middlebury's defense threw a blanket on RPI and held them scoreless for the last 29:02 of the game. During that time, the Panthers went on a 6-0 tear against Red Hawks goalies Thibdeau and Ryan Michels. The Kohn Field faithful were treated to two goals and an assist from Mike Stone '09. Jim Cabrera '08 had an assist and a goal of his own on a powerful drive to the cage. Cabrera currently leads Middlebury with 27 points.

The defense made it a stress-free afternoon for Panther goalies Tri-Captain Alex Palmisano '07 and Pete Britt '09, who combined needed to make only 10 saves. The sole blemishes on an afternoon of pretty play were six penalties by Middlebury, none of which resulted in a man-up goal for RPI. The visitors were unbeaten coming into the contest.

On Saturday, Middlebury traveled to Hartford, Conn. to begin the final stretch of the regular season with the first of five consecutive NESCAC games. The 150 in attendance saw the Panthers and Bantams tussle back and forth in a hard-fought game. The score was tied after every period, and it looked as though the game was headed to triple-overtime until Kris Tedeschi won it for Trinity with :59 left. Tedeschi's goal was his fourth of the day and the only shot Trinity needed in the second extra session.

An extra ground ball recovery here or there and perhaps the team could have come back to Vermont with a win. Still, Trinity (7-3) put forth a noteworthy performance. Alex Palma played brilliantly in net, making 15 saves as he faced a barrage of 54 Middlebury shots.

With each game, the first-years continue to show signs of things to come, and the game against Trinity was especially indicative of this improvement. Nick Martell '10, Jeff Begin '10 and Pete Smith '10 each grabbed a point in the third quarter. Martell scored on his first shot of the season, when the Panthers were a man-up with 5:32 left.

Velge will spend his summer playing polo

Continued from page 24

a one handicap — if you start playing polo tomorrow, you start at minus-two, while ten is the best — he's very bad," said Velge. "You pass the ball to the owner sometimes, so he can try to score, but usually he fails."

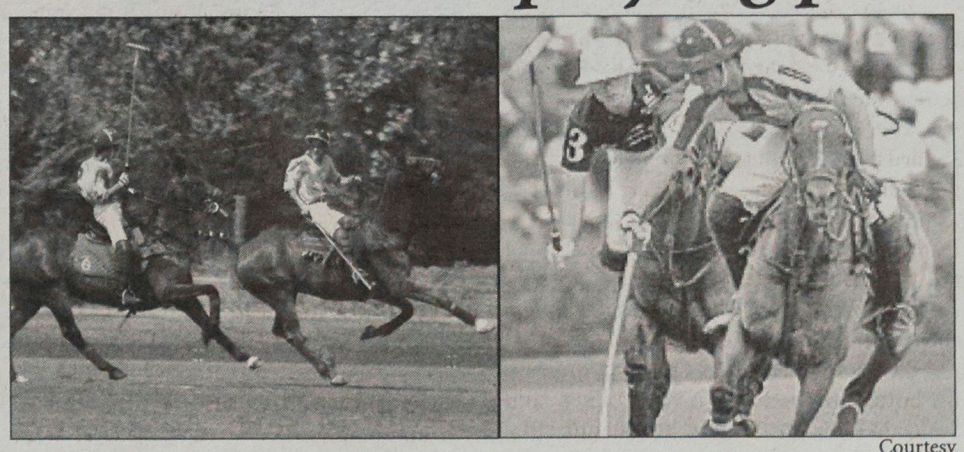
"But you still can't leave him alone on the field. He is the guy in the front, so someone still has to be with him. Even though he doesn't play with the ball a lot, he's there for something."

Some owners even have royal blood. "There is a king on an island in Asia that is very rich and he usually buys the three best Argentinean players," said Velge, "and he usually goes to tournaments with the same three players, but only because he can afford to do this."

Other than this rare exception, owners sign players who come and go. "The only fixed part of the team is the owner, the horses and those who take care of the horses," he said.

Ever since attending a polo match as a young boy in Sotogrande, a town in the south of Spain, where his family spends their summers, Kiko has been fixed on the sport. "There is a very good tournament there every summer," he said, "I used to go there to watch."

Although he's "waiting for a date," he plans to play a lot this summer. Unfortunately, living away from the warm weather has made Kiko



Courtesy
Federico Velge '10 (on the left in both pictures) learned to play polo passing summers in Sotogrande.

a little rusty. "I was a three or a four handicap, now I'm a one or a two," said Velge. "I just haven't been able to practice."

The four-named Kiko — his full name is Federico Miguel Velge Urquijo — plays the number four position, which is similar to the free-safety in football. It is primarily a defensive position, but when he intercepts the ball he too can make a run toward the goal.

In a 20-goal tournament, which is by no means for the beginner — where the total of the four players' handicaps have to add up to 20 — he is a hot commodity. "A good, good defender in a tournament is like a four handicap," said Velge. "Three is still good because you can still put other good players on your team."

In his defense, playing defense in polo is not an easy task. There is no goalkeeper and only three other defenders on a 300-yard by 160-yard playing area.

"The ball is easy to score from far away," he said. "Good guys can score from 60 yards easily."

Plus you have to steer an unfamiliar horse as thousands of fans scream and yell.

"You have to watch out for the well-being of the horses too," said Velge. "If someone has a line, no one can cross it. You can be near him, pushing him, but you can't cross it. You have to respect his line. It's very hard because the defender wants the ball too."

On top of this, "the defender has to change horses very quickly," he said. "One of the trainers will get the two horses together [the fresh one and the tired one] and the defender will jump from one to the other."

Normally it is a good idea to change horses at least twice during a chukker, one of six seven-minute periods, but "sometimes during the game, you forget to change," said Velge.

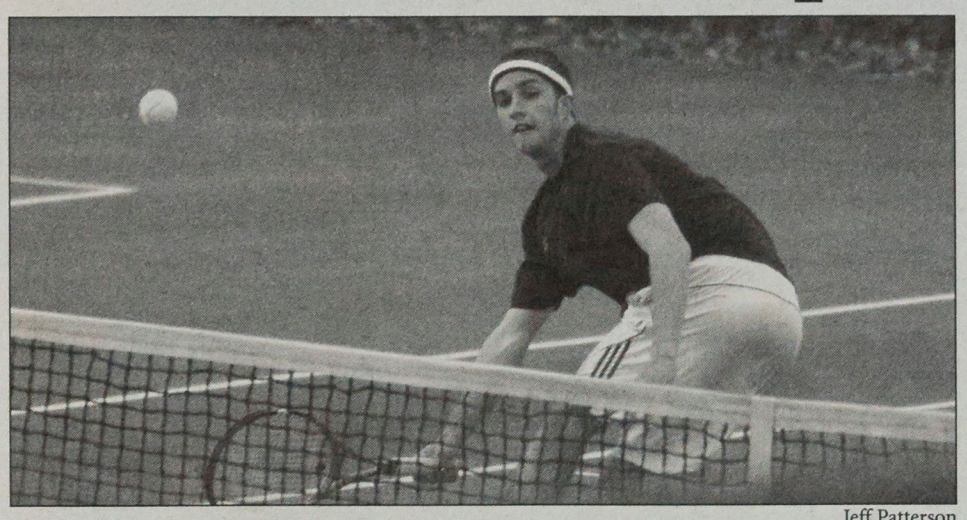
This mistake can be very costly. "The horses can die," he said. "They are always, always, running. And they are very tight, because there is a belt around them. That's the first thing you do, when you change horses — is take off the belt, so they can breathe normally."

"Argentina players have like six or seven horses," he said. They can go at full speed for the entire game with out any worries.

Although he does not want to brag about his talent, saying that, "it is not part of the mentality of the sport to show off," it should be mentioned that he has represented Spain in several tournaments. "We are not the real Spanish team," he said humbly. "They are older and they only play polo all their life. We are the third team, but the first in juniors."

"We are good, but we aren't the perfect players for the Spanish team," he said. "We are doing it for fun. Two of my friends study in England and I'm here at Middlebury. Only one of the guys on our team just plays polo. He has a chance in a couple of years to move up to the second team."

Williams was walloped



Jeff Patterson
Andrew Thomson '10 tracks this forehand volley during his 7-5, 6-3 victory over Karol Furmaga.

Continued from page 24

Despite the weather, Marinkovic, facing Rick Devlin for the first time, extended his spring singles unbeaten streak to 10 straight matches. Even though he may have been cold, his successful play, which began in March, has remained hot.

Scott singled out Greenberg and beat him 6-2, 6-2 in singles. His powerful serve and overwhelming overheads left his opponent wishing he had not made the trip to the Green Mountain State. Scott mixed it up, serving Greenberg right and left, serving him right for trying to beat the third-ranked player in the country.

"My serve is one of my stronger shots and having a good first serve percentage always helps," he wrote.

In this team effort, everyone helped. Mayer, Bergesen and Thompson all won their matches in straight sets. Williams went straight home with unsettled stomachs.

Over the weekend the Panthers had two successful away matches in Maine, despite the snowy conditions. On indoor courts, they swept both Bates and Bowdoin, 9-0 and 7-1.

sportsbriefs

by David Infante

Softball beat Williams in the first game, but lost the next two

The Middlebury softball team may have been a little shaken up due to the change in venue for Saturday's games, picking up only one win in three games at Williams. The games, which were originally meant to be played at Middlebury, were moved when the field was determined unplayable as a result of the wet weather. After winning a close match 2-1, the Panthers dropped the second game 13-9 and the final contest with a score of 5-3. Jennifer Williams '07, who pitched Middlebury to the early 2-1 win, was unable to continue her streak, and gave up nine hits and five earned runs in the second game. The squad drops to fourth place in the NESCAC West Division with a 1-2 conference record. Middlebury will play Hamilton away on April 18.

Wet weather affects whether or not Middlebury teams will play

This past weekend's raw weather has been unpleasant and unwelcome, and has also impacted the sports schedules for a host of Middlebury squads. Panthers' Softball was relocated to Williams, while Middlebury's Track and Field's events were postponed indefinitely. Men's Golf and Baseball were also among the victims of the most recent nor'easter over the weekend, foregoing competition till a later date.

Members of the women's golf team lack hot putters in cold

The Middlebury women's golf team delivered a solid performance on Saturday, placing third in a field of five at the Vassar College Invitiational Open. The Panthers finished the tournament with a team total of 367, just 21 off Williams, the eventual tournament winner.

The tournament was held at the Spackenkill Country Club, in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. , a par-72 course. Karen Levin '08 led the squad for the day with a total of 90 strokes, followed by Heather Gallagher '07 (91), Allison Ortega '07 (92) and Kerry Ortega '07 (94). Julie Ellenberger '09 finished the day with a 95, which placed her just outside the top four scoring slots.

Despite finishing behind rival Williams, Ellenberger is optimistic for the upcoming competition.

"We're not really sure what happened [at Vassar]," she wrote in an email, "but we've kind of come back down to earth after kind of dominating in the fall and are ready to work hard to improve, especially on our putting which was a clear weakness. It will be difficult seeing as we probably will not be able to get outside at all, but we are trying to make practice more competitive and realistic (with simulating course play and putting competitions). We've put Saturday behind us and will be ready for Amherst next weekend!"

Lacrosse player Liza Humes '07 is NESCAC Player of Week

The women's lacrosse team's own Liza Humes '07 came away with NESCAC Player of the Week honors for her essential contributions to the Panthers' 2-0 week. Humes started the charge last Thursday, notching four goals and two assists along with two ground balls against Skidmore. On Saturday, she helped the squad to a second win, this time over Trinity College, with a goal and four assists. Humes also managed a couple of draw controls in the game. The Panthers play Bates this afternoon, 4:15 p.m. at Kohn Field.

Jeff Patterson

On Proctor's green tennis courts, Alex Scott '07 prepares to unleash an overhead against Williams' Daniel Greenberg.

Men's tennis was over Williams' head

By Jeff Patterson
Sports Editor

Outside for the first home tennis match of the spring season, the number-three ranked Middlebury men's tennis team outplayed the out-of-town Williams Ephs, 8-1. The outlook of Wednesday's match was determined right from the outset as the Panthers took all three doubles points from the number-six ranked Ephs.

Men's Tennis

Wednesday, April 11

Middlebury	8
Williams	1

Middlebury seniors Alex Scott '07 and George Mayer '07, the fourth-ranked pair in the nation, took care of Williams' Daniel Greenberg and Gary Simonette 8-3 in the number-one doubles match, while Kevin Bergesen '07 and Andrew Thompson '10 won their seventh straight match together this spring, beating Williams' number two lineup 8-2.

Conrad Olson '09 and Filip Marinkovic '08, who had a 19-2 record playing together this season coming into the match, reached the 20-win mark after they beat Nick Lebedoff and Jeremy Weinberger 8-5.

"It is always nice to get out to 3-0 lead," wrote Scott in an e-mail. "It definitely shifts the momentum of the match."

"Given that the doubles have so much emphasis placed on them this year, it's an important morale boost to start off taking all three," wrote Marinkovic. "We are confident in our singles ability, but it never hurts taking some wind out of our opponents early."

The Panthers had to cope with the wind and the relatively cold temperatures after practicing all week in Nelson Arena. As the sun went down, so did the temperature.

"Nelson isn't the most ideal venue for hosting teams," wrote Marinkovic, "[but] this might have been one of those days when the shortcomings of Nelson would have been more welcome than not being able to feel my hands or face."

See Williams was, page 23

Women hold on despite laxadasical second half

By Allison Ortega
Staff Writer

Ranked second in the most recent national poll, the Middlebury women's lacrosse team showed their offensive firepower early and then held on for victory on Saturday at Kohn Field in a NESCAC matchup against Trinity.

Playing in front of a large crowd assembled to celebrate the team's annual Alumnae Weekend — incidentally including first-year Trinity coach Kate Perine '03 — the Panthers set off to a fast start.

"We were all really excited to play for our big group of alumnae that came back this year," wrote Lindsay McBride '09 in an e-mail.

Midfielder Reid Berrien '08 opened the scoring just over a minute into the game with a shot past Bantam goaltender Michelle Smith. While Trinity countered to even the score at one just a minute later, the Panthers respond swiftly.

Showing off its superior depth, Middlebury then poured on six straight goals. First-year Dana Heritage tallied back-to-back scores, before Berrien added her second of the game.

Caroline Kirkendoll '09, Katherine Entwisle '08 and Tri-Captain Claire Edelen '07 then helped the Panthers build a 7-1 lead before nine minutes had elapsed in the game.

The Bantams managed to stop the barrage with a goal past Middlebury's Blair Bowie '09 about a minute later. Yet, this was only momentary as Panthers subsequently continued their offensive onslaught.

After assisting on three previous goals, Liza Humes '07 notched a tally of her own to resume Middlebury's scoring spree.

Tri-Captain Kim Walker '07 and Amanda Smith '08 followed with two goals each, while Kate Barton '09 picked up a single tally to round out the first half scoring. At halftime the score was Middlebury 13, Trinity 2.

"We came out really strong in the first half, moving the ball quickly, working the fast break, and holding Trinity to only two goals," wrote Edelen.

Women's Lacrosse

Saturday, April 14

Middlebury	15
Trinity	13

Despite its first half domination, Middlebury was unable to maintain its torrid scoring pace during the second half of play. The Bantams responded to their large deficit with renewed energy and gradually moved back into the game. Less than a minute into the half, Trinity scored the first goal of the second half.

Although Barton answered for the Panthers, the Bantams then went on an 8-0 run.

"Trinity proved to be a strong opponent," wrote Edelen, "and after scoring a few goals, they gained the momentum of the second half."

Smith's third goal of the game ended the Panthers' scoring drought and increased the lead to 15-11 with just under five minutes left.

However, the Bantams would not relent in the game's final min-

See Women beat, page 22

A polo player amidst a plethora of polo shirts

By Jeff Patterson
Sports Editor

Middlebury has seen its share of polo shirts, has recruited die-hard water polo players and has chemistry majors that can speak at length about Polonium, but Federico "Kiko" Velge '10 might be the College's first authentic polo star.

A native of Portugal, this serious polo player is not your typical American college student. When asked what time in the afternoon would be good to conduct an interview, he responded, "Can we meet before my first class at 10:10 a.m.?"

While most of us would have slept in, Kiko got an early start, something he has been doing most of his life.

"Since six years old I was riding horses," he said. "I love horses."

Like skating in ice hockey, riding a horse is an integral, but often overlooked part of the game — but when you are a top-level player, you do not even pay any attention to it. He learned early and riding has now become second nature to him.

"In polo you really don't think about the horses," he said, "You just concentrate on the game."

"At eight, I started playing polo with just small bicycles to practice," said Velge. "When you are young that's what you do. I just practiced, practiced, practiced."

After playing at boarding school in Paris and in local tournaments, Kiko caught the attention of several owners.

"The owner calls you and rents you," Velge said as he explained the process of joining a team. "Teams are made up of a very rich owner who has some money and some horses. He buys usually two Argentinean players because they are the best ones and one Spanish one or a French one."

"The owner is usually a zero or

See Velge will, page 23

Jeff Patterson

Panthers fly by Red Hawks, fall to Bantams

No. 3 Jim Cabrera '08, scored his 18th goal of the season, a la Bobby Orr, in an 11-2 win against RPI on Tuesday afternoon. Middlebury was not as fortunate on Saturday as they lost in double overtime to Trinity, 11-10.

this week in sports

Inside the Locker Room: Eliot Jia '10
Who knows the tennis star better? page 21

games to watch
Women's Lacrosse vs. Bates, April 18 at 4:15 p.m.
Men's Tennis vs. Trinity, April 22 at 11 a.m.

Win streak at three:
On Wednesday, Baseball rocked Plymouth State, winning 8-2, page 22